

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

NMI's Nepalese worried about families

» **Inos administration urges
community to help**

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Nepalese citizens in the CNMI are anxious for their families and countrymen back home following a massive 7.8 earthquake that hit the Himalayan nation last Saturday and a death toll that has now reached more than 3,000.

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RELATED NEWS

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- No time to lose: Global response to Nepal quake gears up. **PAGE 17**
- Quake agony revealed quietly on trip from Nepal airport. **PAGE 17**



DENNIS B. CHAN

These Refalawasch Warrior performers got the crowd cheering with their passion during the closing night of the 34th Flame Tree Arts Festival at the Civic Center in Susupe.

34th Flame Tree Arts Festival closes to a crowd

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Despite rain showers over the weekend, the 34th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival picked up where it left off. Over 25 artists and entertainers graced the

festival's stage during the four-night, two-day event. About 50 vendors participated, selling art and food.

Hundreds visited the festival over the weekend. As the festival closed late Sunday night, a sizeable crowd was still gathered around the stage area.

Festival committee chair Parker Yobei called the festival "successful."

"I'm glad we had a good turnout even if the weather wasn't cooperating. I'm glad to see the community come out and enjoy themselves," he said in

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'Random' Grotto closures slammed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Businessman Harry Blalock is protesting the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section's alleged random and arbitrary closures of the Grotto for the past six

» **Police chief
says no random
closures of
diving spots,
beaches**

months, saying it is costing him and other dive shops and snorkel outfits thousands of dollars.

Blalock is planning to sue the CNMI government and DPS for deprivation of income, for stopping him from taking his customers diving at

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Kilili joins call for longer review time for draft EIS

By JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

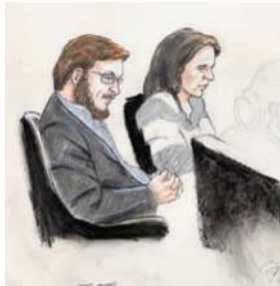
Delegate George Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said he supports the calls for an extension on the review period for the draft environmental im-

pact statement on "live-fire" military exercises on the CNMI.

"What the U.S. military is proposing will have a significant and long lasting impact on our community and everyone should take full ad-

See **KILILI** on **Page 4**

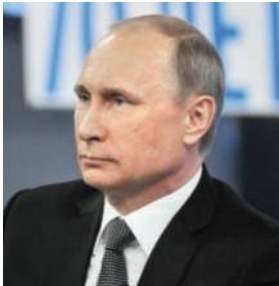
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'Batman' killer studied brain disorders before committing mass murder.

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Vladimir Putin says the U.S. helped separatists in the North Caucasus in the 2000s.

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LIFE & STYLE

President Obama had plenty of new material to work with at a media dinner.

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Local

'CDA is well protected should Freedom Air collapse'

Commonwealth Development Authority executive director Manuel Sablan assured last week that they are "very well protected" when it comes to their loan to Freedom Air.

The outstanding debt plus in-

terest Freedom Air owes sits at some \$1.3 million right now, according to CDA.

"We are very well protected," Sablan said. "The only reason why we allowed this thing to go through is because the company

continues to maintain a validity of the certificate, the FAA certificate to fly, and that's a very valuable thing."

"We wanted basically to explore any possibility that the company can continue to fly,

because that would be an economic benefit to the CNMI. And that's really the reason why we provided the loan, to further encourage them to continue servicing. But if they fall a part, then there it is. We lost a company that has been providing services for the last 37 years," he explained.

Sablan's comments come amid a Federal Aviation Administration plan to revoke Freedom Air's air carrier certificate.

This is an amended proposal to one last year in May. The FAA indicated over the weekend, though, that the airline would appeal the revocation.

CDA has been communicating with owner Joaquin Flores on a regular basis, said Sablan, adding that it would be a "sad situation" if the airline collapses.

In this case, though, he assured CDA was protected. "We have the security, we'll go after the assets—both assets in the Guam Airport Authority premises and also on our site, [as well as] properties that the owner has

on Guam and also here," he said.

"These people have been operating the last 37 years, and they've never come to CDA for a loan until they got into this bind," he said. "They've been providing services to Rota and Tinian, particularly medical referrals. Our main objective here is if it can be resuscitated and brought back for operations, it would work for the benefit of everybody, particularly in our quest for more tourism development. But that's the scenario," he said. **(Dennis B. Chan)**

Military exercises meant for destruction, lawmakers say

Lawmakers again lambasted proposed military exercises on Tinian and Pagan, saying that the activities seem to point to destruction and not just mere "presence."

Tinian and Pagan are being eyed as the sites for the U.S. military to conduct "live fire training" exercises as well as amphibious landing activities. Specifically, Pagan is being eyed as a location where "inert" bombs will be dropped.

"It is one thing to have military presence, but what is coming out of the Department of Defense about the types of training to be conducted on Tinian and Pagan is not really a forward presence, it is destruction," Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) said. "There is a big difference between a forward presence and training with live firing from jets, mortars, and ships."

For Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), the islands are the only resource that the CNMI has and bombing should be out of the

question.

He is also dismissed that the bombs to be used on Pagan are "inert."

"If the bombs are so safe, then they should feel free to drop it in the mainland, but keep our Marianas bomb-free," Demapan said.

Palacios and Demapan head the Senate and House committees on Foreign and Federal Relations, respectively.

The two lawmakers last week attended a symposium in Honolulu, Hawaii, called "Bombs in Paradise: A Legal, Social, and Political Discussion of Militarization in the Pacific."

Based on the actual cases, Demapan said it is "eye-opening" to see what will happen before and after military exercises are conducted on an island, particularly the devastation.

Demapan said the Hawaiian island of Kahoolawe is a prime example of what could become of Pagan.

Kahoolawe was a U.S. Navy bombing range that has since gained notoriety as "the most bombed island in the Pacific."

Today, the island and its surrounding waters are littered with bullets, shells, and bombs and decades of bombing eroded millions of tons of topsoil, making the island uninhabitable.

The island remains uninhabitable while the state government scrambles, \$400 million later, to figure out how to fund the remaining cleanup of the island.

"This symposium provided a tremendous amount of insight on the devastation forced upon fragile island communities and the severe alteration of indigenous sites and practices," Demapan said.

According to him, the symposium also covered the history of militarization; the social, economic, and environmental impacts of military testing; the indigenous rights movement; and proposals or alternatives for moving for the future. **(Joel D. Pinaroc)**

Team Bodig joins 2015 MMAC

Team Bodig will be joining the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer, the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

The team's captain is Bridgette Camacho. Their team has been involved with MMAC since 2002. Camacho said their team's long history with the event dates back to 1999 when it was first called "Relay for Life."

"Cancer touches each and every one of us. Our team has seen many loved ones who have won their battle to cancer, a celebration of life, but also many who have lost their fight to this deadly disease," Camacho said.

The reason her team is joining is that the event is an impor-

tant part of overcoming the grief associated with the disease.

"It is an important part of recovery from cancer, including recovery for families that have lost their loved ones in a way that did not consume our lives and, instead, became part of our lives," Camacho

Camacho said they formed their team because their mother, who survived cancer for 10 years, reached out to many of their relatives and friends that stood firm and supported her.

"She guided us with passion and dedication until 2004 when she lost her battle to cancer. Our team continued to grow each year as members of our families and friends experience the fate of cancer and through the love

and support of families, friends, and the community, we remain strong in our commitment to MMAC," Camacho said.

Team Bodig's plan this year is to sell food and drinks and support the survivors and families.

Their favorite part is the luminary ceremony.

Camacho is urging others to join in the efforts by making a team and supporting the 2015 MMAC.

"MMAC is coming together as a community, in the spirit and hope that one day soon, cancer will be a thing of the past. It is equally important to be educated about this life-threatening disease," she said.

This year's even will be held at the Hopwood Junior High School field this Friday and Saturday. **(Jayson Camacho)**

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SPECIAL THANKS



'Tasi Tours owed a duty of reasonable care to drowning victim'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ruled that Tasi Tours & Transportation, Inc. owed a duty of reasonable care to Dao Wang, a female Chinese tourist who drowned while snorkeling off Managaha Island in 2012.

Manglona ruled that because no statute or regulations bars liability, and because Tasi Tours possesses Managaha Island and the shallow waters immediately surrounding it for purposes of common law negligence, it owed Dao a duty to exercise reasonable care.

Manglona discussed Tasi Tours' duties on Managaha in her order denying the company's motion to dismiss a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Dao's father, Xiao Ting Wang.

The judge stressed that the issue raised in Tasi Tours' motion to dismiss is whether Tasi Tours owed a duty of reasonable care to Dao.

"Based on Tasi Tours' status as a land possessor, it did," she said.

Manglona said whether Tasi Tours breached its duty by failing to post lifeguards—as suggested by Wang—is not a matter of duty, but of reasonable care.

She said the question of reasonable care—whether Tasi Tours' decision not to post lifeguards was reasonable—was not addressed in the briefs and is not addressed here.

Manglona said the primary factors to consider in determining whether the person's conduct lacks reasonable care are the foreseeable likelihood that the person's conduct will result in harm, the foreseeable severity of any harm that may follow, and the burden of precautions to eliminate or reduce that risk.

"Whether deploying lifeguards to watch the area in which Dao drowned would have been reasonable... is a jury question," said Manglona, adding that the court's conclusion only addresses the existence of Tasi Tours' duty owed to Dao.

According to court records, Dao, a Chinese woman vacationing on Saipan, drowned in the shallow waters off Managaha Island in an area without lifeguards.

Dao's representative and father, Xiao Ting Wang, sued the company that operates the only lifeguard station on the island for negligence, based on its failure to provide lifeguards at the site where his daughter died.

That company, Tasi Tours & Transportation, Inc., filed a motion to dismiss, arguing that it has no duty to lifeguard the area in which Dao drowned.

Tasi Tours, through counsel Rexford C. Kosack, said it has no duty to lifeguard the area because relevant statutes and regulations preclude such a duty and that common law principles of negligence limit liability to those who create risks or land possessors, and the company neither created a risk nor pos-

sessed Managaha Island on the water in which Dao drowned.

Wang also sued on the basis of the lifeguards' negligence for failing to use a defibrillator or oxygen on Dao when they were attempting to revive her.

All references to Tasi Tours' parent company, JTB, were stricken from the lawsuit pursuant to the parties' agreement.

According to the complaint, Dao and a travel companion visited Managaha Island on April 16, 2012, as part of a snorkeling package they bought from Win Tour.

Win Tour took Dao and other customers to an area without lifeguards and provided them with snorkeling equipment, telling them it was "safe to snorkel."

Dao entered the water, staying in the "very shallow water close to the beach," while the other tourists ventured out further into "chest-deep water."

Left alone, there was no one present to help Dao when water entered her snorkel and she began to drown. Five minutes later, the other tourists returned to the beach, saw Dao floating face down "almost on the beach," and called for aid.

Tasi Tours lifeguards came to the scene and performed CPR, but were unable to revive Dao. She was taken to the hospital and pronounced dead from drowning.

Managaha is administered by the Department of Public Lands, which granted Tasi Tours an exclusive concession.

As the exclusive concessionaire, Manglona said, Tasi Tours has the use of a "concession area" of approximately 11,203 square meters—a significant portion of the small island.

Manglona said the concession agreement tasks Tasi Tours with a number of limitations and responsibilities in exchange for the exclusive concession.

Tasi Tours cannot restrict common areas of the concession area to its own paying customers and cannot "prohibit the general public from using any beach on Managaha Island."

Tasi Tours is also charged with management and maintenance of the entire island, including cleaning up any trash on a daily basis, providing nighttime security, and keeping vegetation trimmed and paths in good repair.

Finally, Manglona said, the agreement requires Tasi Tours to lifeguard a roped swimming zone near the concession area.

The cost of maintaining and protecting Managaha is borne by tourists. Visitors to the island who do not reside within the CNMI and tour operators are required to pay a "landing and user fee" upon reaching the island.

That fee for the "construction, maintenance, repair, and/or upkeep of the improvements, infrastructure, appearance, safety, and cleanliness of Managaha Island."

DPL owns the funds, but Tasi Tours may use them to pay

lifeguards, as well as other approved expenses.

Tasi Tours' motion asks the court to determine the scope of Tasi Tours' duties, not just whether it has any duty to Dao.

Wang, through counsel William Fitzgerald, claims that Tasi Tours breached its duty to exercise reasonable care by providing lifeguarding service to less than 1 percent of the beach area on Managaha, and for failing to provide lifeguarding services to the most popular and best area for snorkeling.

Tasi Tours argues it had no duty to provide lifeguards outside the zoned swimming area where Dao drowned for two principal reasons: first, because Commonwealth written law precludes such liability; and second, because Tasi Tours had no relationship with Dao and Dao drowned in the ocean, outside of any land Tasi Tours possessed.

Wang disagreed, arguing that under the common law of negligence, Tasi Tours possessed Managaha and had a duty of reasonable care to safeguard Dao from ocean risks.

The parties also dispute whether CNMI public policy favors having lifeguards on beaches.

Tasi Tours argues that the Commonwealth's Lifeguard Act of 1998 and DPL regulations shield it from liability and prevent the court from considering the common law.

Manglona disagrees, saying, among other things, that there is nothing ambiguous about the Lifeguard Act of 1998: if a hotel or property owner charges customers to use its swimming pool, it must keep a lifeguard on duty during open hours or risk a \$100 fine for each violation.

Manglona said that when the Legislature removed beachfront owners from the statute, it simply relieved them of a similar obligation.

"Nothing in the statutory language suggests that the Legislature intended to shield beachfront owners from common law negligence liability," the judge pointed out.

At most, Manglona said, the Legislature relieved beachfront owners from possible negligence per se liability.

In sum, Manglona said, contrary to Tasi Tours' contentions, the Lifeguard Act of 1998 had no effect on common law negligence liability as the rule in beachfront lifeguard negligence cases.

DPL regulation requires Tasi Tours, as concessionaire, to "provide a lifeguard to supervise the activities of those persons using the roped-off swimming zone."

It also provides that "the concessionaire and DPL shall not be responsible for lifeguarding the activities of users of watercraft or swimmers outside the swimming zone."

Tasi Tours argues that the regulation immunizes it from liability for swimming accidents outside the swimming zone.

But Manglona cited two reasons to reject Tasi Tours' argument.

One, she said, the regulation does not express DPL's intent to disturb common law negligence principles, but rather its intent to establish baseline rules governing Managaha.

Second, the judge said, even if DPL intended to limit the concessionaire's potential negligence liability, the agency lacks statutory authority to alter the tort laws of Commonwealth, and any attempt to do so would be *ultra vires* and null.

Like the concession agreement, Manglona said, the regulations provide the structure of the relationship between Tasi Tours and DPL.

She said the regulations do not dictate a departure from the common law of negligence by their express language or unavoidable implication.

Manglona said the court finds that Tasi Tours owed Dao a duty of reasonable care because it is a land possessor of Managaha for negligence purposes.

"Because the court finds that Tasi Tours owed Dao a duty of reasonable care pursuant to negligence rules for and possessors, it is unnecessary to determine whether it alternatively owed Dao a duty of reasonable care based on the alleged risk it created by actively encouraging people to visit Managaha to engage in water activities," she said.

Manglona said because Tasi Tours controls and can reduce the risk to swimmers on Managaha, it is a land possessor and owes its entrants a duty to exercise reasonable care.

Tasi Tours argues that it owed no duty of reasonable care to Dao because she

drowned in the water, not "on the land," and Tasi Tours cannot control the ocean.

"Neither argument persuades the court," the judge said.

Manglona said the fact that Dao was "in the water" when she drowned has no bearing on whether she was also "on the land" for purposes of Tasi Tours' duty to exercise reasonable care.

As a land possessor, Manglona said, Tasi Tours owed a duty of reasonable care to Dao, an entrant, with regard to the natural sea conditions on the land.

"The issue is control, and Tasi Tours had it," she said.

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MURPHY-GOODE

US govt moves to dismiss perjury indictments vs ex-firefighter

The U.S. government asked permission from the federal court yesterday to dismiss the indictments in the perjury case against former firefighter Richard Sullivan Benavente for al-

legedly lying during the trial of Raymond B. Roberto.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross K. Naughton said under the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the U.S. government

moves without opposition for leave to dismiss without prejudice the indictments in the case against Benavente.

Attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for Benavente, notified

the court that he does not oppose the U.S. government’s motion to dismiss.

Naughton said under “Rule 48, court must grant leave to the government to dismiss an indictment, information, or complaint unless dismissal is

clearly contrary to manifest public interest.”

The prosecutor did not specifically mention the reason for dismissal of the case.

Last April 17, the prosecution filed a first superseding indictment charging Benavente with one count of obstruction of justice and one count of perjury. Last week, he pleaded not guilty.

The original indictment charged him with four charges: three counts of perjury and one

count of obstruction of justice.

In February 2014, Benavente pleaded guilty to a count of sexual exploitation of a child. He has yet to be sentenced in this case.

In September 2014, a federal court jury acquitted Roberto of all charges that he enticed three minor girls to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering. Roberto used to serve as acting director of the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

GROTTO

From Page 1

the Grotto repeatedly, for harassment, for making him lose a half day of diving to go to court, and for the emotional distress of being threatened with arrest.

Blalock owns Axe Murderer Tours-Saipan that operates scuba diving instructions and guiding.

DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero said yesterday DPS does not randomly close beaches or diving spots as Blalock alleges.

“We initiate closure actions based on the conditions of our ocean water,” Deleon Guerrero said.

The commissioner said if the Boating Safety Section, and often with guidance from the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, has determined that the water conditions present a risk to lives, then they will close beaches immediately.

Furthermore, he said, the issuance of hazardous surf advisory notices by HSEM are things that Blalock should take seriously.

Deleon Guerrero said while Blalock often complains about Boating Safety officers killing his business, he should be equally mindful about the potential injuries and deaths that may occur if he ignores posted closure signs.

“These are paying customers that he’s bringing down to the Grotto and he should concern himself more with the consequences of his actions than to constantly complain about our

decisions to close the Grotto,” he said.

Also, Deleon Guerrero said, they have full authority under Section 5701 of Title 3 of the Commonwealth Code or Public Law 14-48 to initiate closure actions to ocean waters and that he strongly advises Blalock to comply with all posted closure signs.

In a posting on his Facebook page, Blalock said that Boating Safety Section sometimes base their closures of Grotto on small craft advisories from Emergency Management Office, sometimes on weather bulletins from Homeland Security, “and once in a great while they even bother to take a look down in the Grotto to see what it looks like.”

“Not that it makes much difference, because most of them have no clue what they are looking at or how to judge whether the Grotto is actually diveable or not,” Blalock said.

He recalled an incident several months ago when he was with customers and the Grotto was closed, but the conditions were perfect for diving. He said he asked a Boating Safety officer who happened to be in the area why they closed the Grotto when it was so calm.

Blalock said the officer explained that they often base the closure on small craft advisories from EMO and closes it even though it is fine for diving.

He said the officer stated he didn’t think they could legally stop them from diving, and told him if he wanted to dive to go ahead and just go around the sign, and that the risk and responsibility was on him.

Blalock said then one day a police officer “with an attitude” was waiting for him at the top of the steps and threatened to arrest him for breaking some law and diving at the Grotto when it was closed.

He said the officer told him he had to go to court and faced a fine and jail time, and that if he didn’t sign the ticket, he would put him in handcuffs and arrest him on the spot.

“I tried going and talking to his boss, but didn’t get any farther. They both wanted to make an example of me and see what happened in court,” Blalock said.

Blalock said he stopped diving at the Grotto every time it was closed over the next couple of months and lost thousands and thousands of dollars as a result.

Blalock said he went to court for his preliminary hearing last week, only to have the judge inform him that it was a non-citeable offense and they couldn’t fine him or do anything to him, and that he was free to go.

He said the representative from the Office of the Attorney General really had no good comment as to why he was there and why he had to show up in the first place.

“They both looked rather embarrassed that the police officer had threatened to arrest me and make me go to court,” he said.

Blalock said he told the judge he wanted a court trial anyway to expose what has been going on at the Grotto and to stop DPS from costing so many business so much money.

Blalock said the judge told the prosecutor that she needed

to talk to the DPS commissioner and get this straightened out so that it stops happening.

He said he has also consulted a lawyer about the possibility of suing the government and DPS. Blalock urged other dive shops that would like to join his lawsuit and make it a class action suit to let him know.

“It won’t cost you any money to get involved, but it may help to make up for some of the income that you have lost over the past six months of needless Grotto closures,” he said.

Blalock said he called DPS last week to know if the Grotto was open or closed because he had divers going there in the afternoon.

“I tried calling Boating Safety first, but they never answered their phone, which is quite common for them,” he said.

Blalock said an officer later told him that Boating Safety never closes the Grotto unless there is an accident there.

“I told him that was a blatant lie, and his department had better figure out what the heck they are doing. So I asked him again, is the Grotto open today? He said, yes, of course the Grotto is open today,” Blalock said.

He said he took the customers in the afternoon only to find an empty parking lot and the closed sign blocking the steps to the Grotto.

“It is unbelievable what is going on at the Grotto and that the Department of Public Safety has gotten away with this for so long. Legislators, are you paying attention? Attorney General’s Office, are you paying attention?” Blalock asked.

KILILI

From Page 1

vantage of the opportunity to make their views known during the public comment period,” Sablan said.

The delegate said if more time is needed for technical analysis of the draft EIS, then “it would be the right thing for the military to extend the comment period.”

Other lawmakers in the CNMI have also called for an extension of the review period.

The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation last week passed a resolution “vehemently” supporting Gov. Eloy S. Inos’ request for the extension of the comment period of the draft EIS.

The lawmakers are supporting other options for the military exercises, including a “No-Action Alternative.”

Show of force

Some lawmakers on Capital Hill also vowed to invite their respective constituents to attend the public hearings on Saipan and Tinian.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) said he will invite constituents to attend the hearing.

He said has a lot of questions for the military, including specific reasons on why the CNMI was selected for the military exercises instead of other areas.

Earlier, PaganWatch founder

Pete Perez said the group has been reactivated to respond to the challenge of protecting the Commonwealth’s islands from the U.S. military’s intention to use them as bombing ranges.

“We have teamed with Guardians of Gani, another local grassroots group opposed to the destruction of our beautiful islands. Together we are hosting ‘Alternative Zero,’ a local perspective event that will take place at the entrances to the three military draft EIS public hearings,” he said.

The public hearings are scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2015, from 4pm to 9pm, at the Saipan Southern High School cafeteria; Thursday, April 30, 2015, from 4pm to 9pm, at the Tinian Junior Senior High School cafeteria; and Friday, May 1, 2015, from 4pm to 9pm, at the Garapan Elementary School.

“The military wants Alternative 1, Alternative 2, or Alternative 3—all variations on bombing our islands for practice. We want Alternative Zero—peaceful and productive use of our land and waters for the benefit of the people,” Perez said.

He said, “Alternative Zero will inform the public as to the true nature of the military’s intention—the realities of turning beautiful islands into bombing ranges.”

“It will also educate people about non-destructive alternatives for Tinian and Pagan,” he added.

NEPALESE

From Page 1

Three days after the temblor struck, members of the Nepalese community on the island are still having trouble contacting their loved ones in Nepal.

The few who managed to do so, however, are no longer in pins and needles after confirming with other relatives in the U.S. that their families are safe and okay.

Sablan Topline employee Budhi Gurung said he freaked out when he saw the breaking news about the Nepal earthquake on CNN, and tried to call his wife and youngest daughter who both live in Nepal’s capital, Kathmandu.

“I recall that I did experience a similar earthquake in Kathmandu back in 1988 and it was early in the morning. We were all sleeping and felt the earthquake because it was so strong. I knew the feeling and how big of an impact it is so I tried to called my wife and youngest daughter

if they were OK,” Gurung said.

At first, he couldn’t get a hold of his family but later found out that they’re okay and are taking temporary shelter at a school compound.

His two older daughters, who both live in the U.S., were the ones who informed him that their mother and youngest sister were safe.

Gurung hasn’t had any luck contacting other relatives and friends and is still trying to find out what happened to them. He said he is worried about their fate since the number of deaths from the earthquake is rising each day.

Mahesh Thapa, owner of Java Joe’s, and his wife, Manju Panbey, are also worried but are in constant contact with family members in Nepal, which number around 40.

Thapa said their family members contacted them last Saturday around 5:30pm informing them that they were OK.

“So far all of them are OK, but they cannot sleep at the house. The government said that it is

not safe because of the cracks inside the house,” he said.

Thapa said his family is camping near their damaged home, only cooking in the house and immediately vacating it. They are now living in a tent until the government clears the area and deems it safe.

“Other people trying to reach the heart of the city, the area hit hardest, cannot get in contact with their family. Every hour we are getting in touch with our families in Nepal and everything is still fine for now,” Thapa said.

Thapa says his family is about 10 miles from Kathmandu and that his wife’s family lives in Kathmandu itself. Their latest update is that the American Red Cross is helping their families and that, as far as he knows, his family has already received food and water.

Kumar Panbey has tried contacting his family in Nepal but so far couldn’t. His wife, who is living in the U.S. with their kids, contacted Panbey informing him that his mother, father,

and brothers are all fine.

“We are not there to help, but it is still hard and we can’t do anything and at least send money,” Panbey said.

Thapa said they are coordinating with the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter to try to raise or receive donations for the Nepalese community on Saipan.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, meanwhile, is urging the community to provide any assistance they can extend to Nepalese citizens whose families were hard-hit in their homeland.

“Friends, the devastating earthquake in Nepal reached across borders. Preliminary reports indicate deaths in India, China, Bangladesh, Tibet, with Nepal suffering the most. As you know, we have members of our community who are from Nepal and the neighboring countries affected by this earthquake. Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and I ask that we keep them in our prayers and offer any assistance we can,” Inos said in a posting on his Facebook page.

FLAME

From Page 1

an interview around 10:30pm Sunday.

“The whole event itself was a highlight,” he added. “All the artists came up with new designs. It’s a pleasure for me to help [Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture] executive director Angel Hocog with the festival.”

Hocog, Yobei, and other council members said it was great to learn about each other’s culture, noting how the community seemed to enjoy it too.

Hocog, Yobei, and other CCAC staff facilitated the event that saw major sponsors Delta Air Lines, Best Sunshine, Marianas Visitors Authority, Bridge Capital, Bank of Guam, IT&E, and Coca-Cola contribute.

Refaluwasch and Chamorro performances closed the festival’s last night.

Simiyan Manainata performers gave the crowd something “eternal” with their dance, drawing from “pre-

contact” and “before Western civilization,” said Simiyan Manainata’s LJ Castro.

“Flowers bloom, flowers wilt... but culture is eternal,” Castro said.

Carolinian dancers from Tanapag and then dancers from the south of the island performed near 11pm to a cheering crowd of family and friends and other community members.

Throughout the weekend, the festival featured entertainment from Out of the Ordinary Band, Flame Tree Angel, Flores Sinsler, Blue Dream BAND, Baby PJ, Rising Tide, Rhythm and Harmony, Blue Drling, Saipan Manta Ray Band, Poksai Guma Chamorro, Hopwood Junior High School, CAB Dancers, Uncle Ben’s Music and Dance, Blue Dragon, Anna Glushko’s Academy, Te Kanehau Nui, Saipan Music and Dance School, Sumiya Manainata, Luis Laforte, JJ Concepcion and the TRU Marianas, Pua Hinano, Awaodori CNMI Team, Alana Ia, Blue Dream Band, Pacific Flower, Refaluwasch Warriors, Big J Selepeo, and Parker

Lawmakers to amend local zoning law for Best Sunshine

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan lawmakers are working to amend a local law on zoning to give way to a live training

‘Medical marijuana is a first step to outright legalization’

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI State Board of Education and Public School System asks that if a bill legalizing medical marijuana were passed, a five-year moratorium be put in place that would bar the outright legalization of marijuana.

In a letter to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, board chair Herman Guerrero said such a moratorium would give medical marijuana “a shot” to see “what effects it has on our islands before we jump to simply making it legal.”

“I think it is important to do this gradually while consistently adjusting our policy and community to the effects of such a big change,” Guerrero wrote.

The joint letter with PSS also detailed possible ramifications for students.

“As you know, we have a problem with underage use of betel nut, cigarettes, and marijuana,” the letter said. This, Guerrero wrote, is an unfortunate “plague” on the education system. Students show up high in class, leave campus to get high, and worst, sell marijuana to their fellow students on cam-

facility that Best Sunshine International, Ltd. is planning to establish in Garapan.

The Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations of the Saipan Legislative Delegation

pus, Guerrero wrote.

“I know this bill only seeks to make it legal for medicinal use, but you and I well know that along with a narrow stated purpose of those who truly need marijuana for a terminal illness or severe pain, there will be those who will have prescriptions because they like smoking

pot,” he said.

“This is simply the case everywhere medicinal marijuana is legal,” Guerrero claimed.

He called the bill the “first step” in making marijuana legal outright.

Noting the “hard task to motivate and engage students with little resources,” Guerrero said it will be much harder to face a chemical obstacle in addition to the systemic ones they already fight.

The letter also addressed concerns over teacher use of marijuana, saying that while PSS will maintain a zero tolerance policy for its employees, it will still be that much harder if the bill passes and marijuana is more readily available.

There is also the potential conflict with federal grants that require drug testing of teachers, PSS and BOE noted.

tion approved Monday Saipan Local Bill 19-03, seeking to amend certain provisions of Saipan Local Law 18-05.

One amendment is to rezone the area where the T Galleria is located. The former DFS Galleria will be the location of Best Sunshine’s live training facility, which is essentially a casino.

Committee member Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) said the bill seeks to amend the zoning law to give way to the live training facility. The amendment seeks to rezone the DFS area to allow the establishment of casino facility.

Demapan said the T Galleria is not listed as a gaming zone.

“The committee just approved it [amendment]. This will require the [Saipan and

Northern Islands Legislative Delegation] to approve it, then for the governor to sign it,” Demapan said.

The amendment also seeks to exempt the exclusive gaming licensee from the prohibition of S.L.L. 18-05 because gaming found in casinos do not carry the same concerns as those of adult gambling machines found in poker parlors scattered around Saipan.

Poker parlors are not allowed in certain areas on Saipan.

Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) said the casino regulators already approved the regulations for the casino and that the amendment on the zoning law is meant to make the facility compliant with zoning regulations.

He said lawmakers are “try-

ing to be consistent,” as the exclusive casino license holder already paid close to \$40 million to the government.

Best Sunshine has signed a lease with T Galleria, which started on April 15 and is good for two years.

Lease on Garapan property

Viola Alepuyo, one of the legal counsels of Best Sunshine, meanwhile, said the company is expecting to sign the land lease for the 250-room hotel that the company will be building in Garapan.

Alepuyo said they are only waiting for the Department of Public Lands for the signing.

As far as the timeline is concerned, Alepuyo said that Best Sunshine’s projects in

Garapan are moving forward as planned. “There is still a lot work,” she said.

Best Sunshine’s land lease with the DPL is separate from the lease with T Galleria.

In March, DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio announced that Best Sunshine is close to signing a lease deal with the government on a 1.5-hectare property in Garapan.

Tenorio earlier said Best Sunshine will “get most of the 1.5-hectare property in Garapan,” adding that DPL “has concluded” the lease agreement and that lawyers are now finalizing the lease agreement, which will be published in the local papers in two weeks’ time.

As of Monday, the lease has yet to be signed.



Guerrero

SHEFA seeks \$15K for move to the Ladera Center in Oleai

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Program is requesting an additional \$15,000 to cover expenses for its move to the Ladera Center in Oleai.

SHEFA program administrator Merissa S. Rasa said their relocation will necessitate paying for rent as well as office improvements.

“We are hoping that our request is approved for an additional \$15,000,” she said.

Every year, SHEFA is usually appropriated some \$3 million and is allotted \$100,000 for operations and personnel costs.

“We are hoping to meet with Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation and House and Ways Committee chair Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan) to request additional funding needed for the move and monthly rental fee,” Rasa said.

SHEFA earlier announced it will start moving to the Ladera Center this month to be nearer

the Saipan Mayor’s Office.

The office SHEFA currently uses has been its home since 2004 and is actually rent-free, with only an annual insurance fee of \$300 paid to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said SHEFA’s move to the Ladera Center is a good decision because it would improve coordination among SHEFA staff and board and the mayor’s staff.

“The SHEFA board approved to move the SHEFA office to the second floor of the Ladera Center where the Mayor’s Office is located. In that way, SHEFA can avail itself of the logistics and other services provided by the mayor’s office,” Rasa said.

The move was suggested by Apatang in January this year, urging the board to start planning on its move before NMHC releases the property to possible investors.

Rasa earlier said they were given six months at the most to complete their move.

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Inos flies to Manila for regular checkup

Gov. Eloy S. Inos flew to the Philippines on Saturday to visit a Manila hospital for a regular check-up.

In a statement, the governor said he will be going off-island "for a medical check-up as recommended by my doctor."

"This check-up is a standard

and routine follow-up on procedures I had done more than six months ago and is completely non-invasive," Inos said.

He also said he fully expects to return quickly to work with Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres to work on pressing issues with the CNMI economy and proposed

military expansion.

But Inos is not expected to be able to attend a scheduled public hearing on the draft environmental impact statement on proposed military exercises



Inos

scheduled this week.

According to press secretary Ivan Blanco, there is no date yet as to when the governor will be back from his Manila trip. Blanco also said he has no information

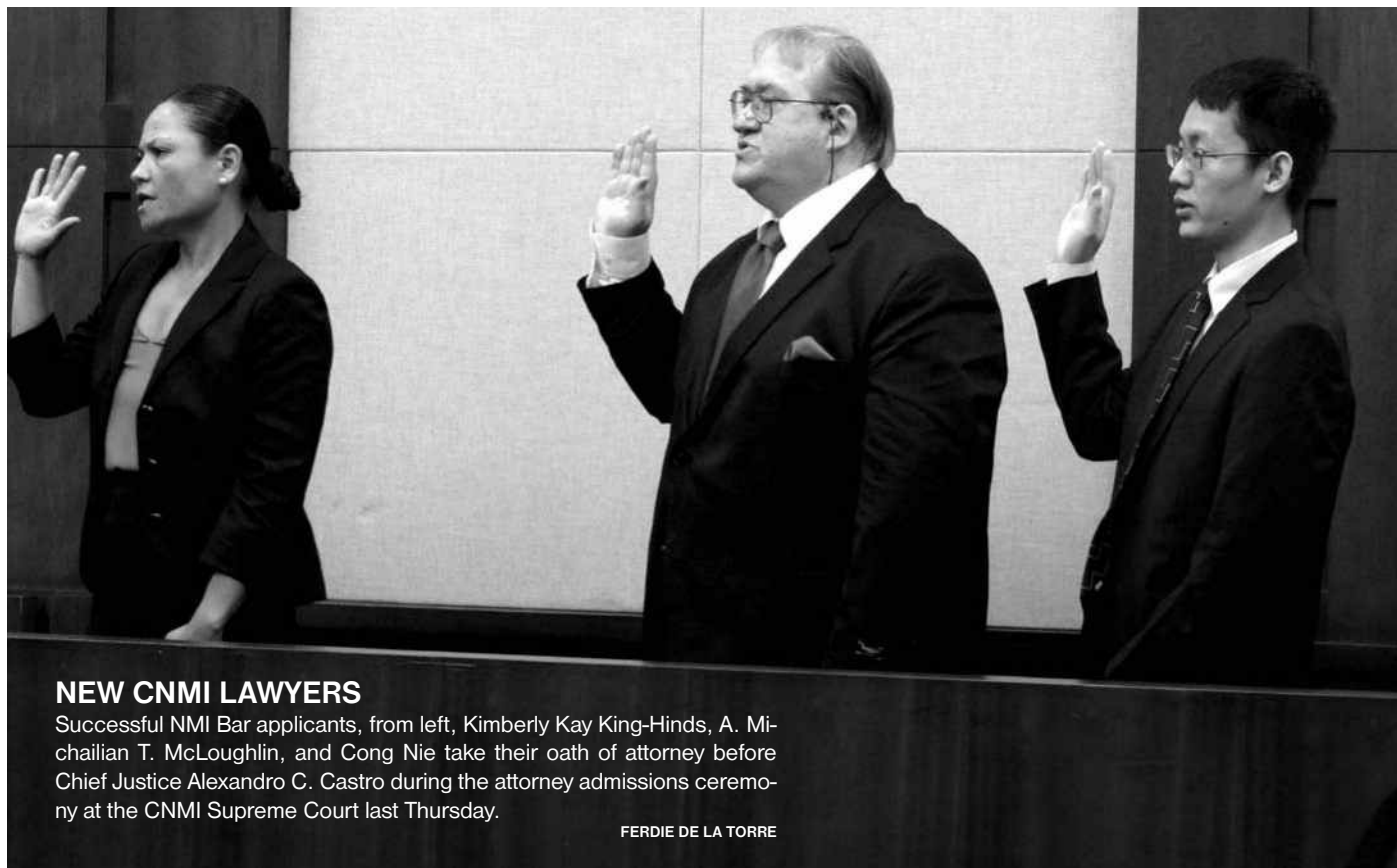
on the specific hospital that the governor will go to.

He said the governor traveled with family members over the weekend.

It is widely expected that the governor will go back at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center where he was previ-

ously treated.

"In looking back to the first 100 days of this administration, Ralph and I are pleased to share that much has been accomplished during this short time, and much still needs to be accomplished," Inos further said in the statement. *(Joel Pinaroc)*



NEW CNMI LAWYERS

Successful NMI Bar applicants, from left, Kimberly Kay King-Hinds, A. Michaelian T. McLoughlin, and Cong Nie take their oath of attorney before Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro during the attorney admissions ceremony at the CNMI Supreme Court last Thursday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

MARPAC is a major sponsor of MMAC

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Pacific Distributors has signed up once again to be a major sponsor of the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer after donating \$1,000 to the Commonwealth Cancer Association's annual signature fundraising event.

Marpac is also supporting the 2015 MMAC on behalf of their operations manager, Phillip Mendiola, who is a cancer survivor.

"We are grateful and thankful to Marpac for their generous donation as they continue to support the fight against cancer," 2015 MMAC donation committee chair Nola Hix said. "On behalf of the Common-

wealth Cancer Association and the 2015 MMAC committee, we would like to thank all of our dedicated teams, sponsors, and donors for their continued support over the years."

This year's march will be held at the Hopwood Junior High School field on Friday night until Saturday morning. Money raised from the march

is used by the CCA to promote cancer awareness and prevention, provide patient support services, and serve as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI.

Businesses, individuals, and organizations that still wish to support the 2015 MMAC may donate funds, services, or raffle items.

For donations, call Hix at 989-6652 or email her at nola.hix@gmail.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marpac operations manager Phillip Mendiola hands over a check for \$1,000 to the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer committee and Commonwealth Cancer Association staff and management. Marpac is now a major sponsor of the 2015 MMAC.

Argument over stolen purses led to man's arrest for criminal trespass

Police have arrested a 31-year-old man for allegedly refusing to leave the house of a woman with whom he had an argument with over two purses that had been stolen from a group of tourists.

Syl Kolin Kaipat Teregeyo was arrested for criminal trespass and disturbing the peace.

At a bail hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho released Teregeyo on a \$250 unsecured bond instead of the original \$3,000 cash bail.

He will be arraigned on May 11 at 9am.

Police detective Rhonda C. John stated in her report that the Department of Public Safety Central had received a call about a disturbing the peace incident in progress at a house along Enrique Street in Chalan Kanoa on Sunday afternoon.

John said she and three other police officers arrived at the scene at 4:15pm and met with the victim, who told them that she was at her mother's house when her sister called, telling her that Teregeyo was walking toward her house.

The report did not mention the relationship between Teregeyo and the victim.

The victim went to her

house to lock all the doors, but then saw that Teregeyo was already inside, opening the front glass sliding door and then closing it again.

The victim told Teregeyo to leave because she does not need him around anymore. Teregeyo replied that he just wanted to talk to her and that he was not the one who stole the purses.

She said Teregeyo lied to her that police have already caught two persons responsible for stealing the purses.

She told him he needs to get out, regardless if he stole the purses or not. He refused to leave and instead sat on the couch in the living room.

She shouted out the window toward her mother, pleading to call the police because Teregeyo refused to leave.

She asked police to arrest Teregeyo. Police then arrested the suspect.

She disclosed that on April 24, a person told her that Teregeyo placed two stolen purses inside her house.

John said her follow-up investigation revealed that the two purses were believed to belong to a group of tourists who were sunbathing at the beach near Aquarius Tower in Chalan Kanoa. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

'Roasts, Reds, Rendezvous' at the Hyatt

The 8th Annual "Roasts, Reds, Rendezvous" is a celebration of steak, wine, and meaningful connections throughout the month of May. Guests will experience one of Hyatt Regency Saipan's signature events with partners, Certified Angus Beef and Murphy-Goode wines. This yearly event rolls out across three significant events: the Grand Launch, Season of RRR and Sundowner.

» A celebration of steak, wine and meaningful connections

Tapas culture at The Grand Launch

On May 2, 2015, the team at Hyatt Regency Saipan is launching the monthlong ode to the marriage of steak, wine, and meaningful connections. The Grand Launch is priced at \$55 per person. The price for Club at the Hyatt members is \$40, inclusive of Murphy-Goode wines.

The Grand Launch will highlight the small-plated wonders and unique culture of tapas. The Grand Launch will feature live stations featuring the culinary team's renditions of Certified Angus Beef paired with Murphy-Goode wines.

With Spanish-themed live entertainment, the team at Hyatt Regency Saipan is excited to create a Spanish

ambience where meaningful connections are fostered and laughter is inspired.

In addition to the ambience, the culinary team also takes pride in the star dish of this year's "Roasts, Reds, Rendezvous" festivities: 28-day in-house dry-aged Certified Angus Beef Tomahawk chop.

Reservations can be made by calling (670) 234-1234 or by visiting saipan.regency.hyatt.com. *(Hyatt)*

NMC at work on Labor grant ahead of April deadline

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College and its partners are finalizing the details of the CNMI’s grant application for a U.S. Department of Labor grant that is due on

April 30. The grant is called the U.S. DOL Employment and Training Administration’s American Apprenticeship Initiative. According to NMC, this grant is intended to provide apprenticeship programs to the underserved.

According to David Attao, NMC dean of Administration and Resource Development, the proposal in the works focuses on “building the infrastructure, mechanisms, policies, education, training, and support systems to help businesses, employers and

U.S. eligible workers participate in American apprenticeships” in industries and occupations that are currently filled by H-1B and CW visa holders.

“A key component of this proposal is to serve under-represented populations in apprenticeships such as women, veterans, and hard-to-reach populations such as those found here in our CNMI,” Attao said.

“We’ve asked community partners such as T.A.S.A. [and] the Women’s Association for support and are working on veteran and military organizations and other respective under-represented populations as well too,” he said.

“We are hopeful for more sup-

port to come before the deadline,” he said, adding that the college is confident that the grant proposal will be submitted on time.

Attao said NMC is thankful and appreciative of the support and commitment given by member entities of Gov. Eloy S. Inos’ Workforce Taskforce such as CNMI Department of Labor/Workforce Investment Agency, NMC, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, Public School System, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, the mayor’s offices of Tinian, Rota, Saipan, and the Northern Islands, with data from the CNMI Department of Commerce, Marianas Visitors Authority and more.

Attao also said his team is thankful and appreciative of

“the most important aspect of this proposal” which are the commitment and support for public-private partnerships from businesses such as 360 Revolving Restaurant, Herman’s Modern Bakery, verbal support from Kautz Glass, and Konstrak Builders, Joeten Group of Companies, as well as general interest from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Best Sunshine and Tinian Gaming Commission.

Businesses and entities that provide Labor-registered apprenticeship training opportunities are recognized as U.S. DOL Registered Apprenticeship providers. These apprenticeships are promoted for creating journey workers with higher wages comparable to middle class levels in the U.S.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA reschedules board meeting

The Commonwealth Cancer Association regular board of directors meeting for today, April 28, 2015, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 3pm at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. (CCA)

VA Benefits workshop on Thursday

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration will be conducting a Veterans Benefits workshop on April 29, 2015, from 10am to 4pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Saipan.

A benefits counselor will provide a VA benefits presentation and will also be available to answer questions and take claims.

Points of contact are Ruth Coleman, 322-0035; Greg Borja, 1-671-648-0090/0091; or Bernie Dela Cruz, 664-2650.

We are encouraging all veterans, family members, widowers and advocates to attend and avail of their services. (Saipan VA Outreach Clinic)

Tinian seatbelt checkpoints

The Tinian Department of Public Safety would like to inform

the general public that the Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints on the dates and time listed below:

■ Wednesday, April 29, 2015, 11am to 12:15pm—eastbound lane by the baseball field.

■ Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 11am to 12:15pm—eastbound lane by the baseball field.

■ Friday, May 15, 2015, 11am to 12:15pm—southbound lane on Broadway by the Natibu Park.

■ Monday, May 25, 2015, 11am to 12:15pm—east bound lane by the baseball field; 4pm to 5:15pm—southbound lane by the Youth Center

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions and laser (speed detection) enforcement. (DPS)

San Jose Church raffle

This is to inform all individuals holding raffle tickets for San Jose Church that all tickets must be turned in no later than Wednesday, April 29. Feel free to call the church at 433-3000 if you have any questions. (PR)

Call for local artists to join FESTPAC

The Northern Mariana Islands Festival of Pacific Arts Organizing Committee is soliciting response from CNMI artisans interested in participating in the 2016 Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam. The committee is asking groups and individuals interested in representing the NMI in any of the following categories

to contact the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC) by Tuesday (April 28): Performing Arts, Literary Arts, Demonstrations/Exhibits, and Forums, Workshops and Seminars. For more information, contact Feofaaki McMahon at CCAC at fe_mcmahon@yahoo.com or 670.322.9982/3. (PR)



Congratulations to Mr. Bonillo of San Antonio who scratched a \$1000 instant cash winning Tropical Treasure game at San Antonio Supermarket on Sunday. The lucky Mr. Bonillo was doing his Sunday shopping to get some chicken for lunch and also got some Lucky 7's and Tropical Treasure to take home. He scratched one at the store and bingo he hit the jackpot! Everyone including the cashier was excited and yelling with joy about the instant \$1000 cash jackpot. Mr. Bonillo is pictured receiving his cash jackpot cash. Good luck to all the players.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2015 at 5:00 PM, Multipurpose Center, Susupe (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

Conditional Use Application #2015-0919: Best Sunshine Resort & Casino is proposing to operate a 14-storey Hotel and Casino Resort consisting of 254 rooms and 6 villas with amenities. This use is classified as a “Hotel” and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on lots 104 D 08, 104 D 10 104 D 11R/W, 104 D 12, TR 21049-R2, TR 21054, 20152, 21050, 21059, 21071, 20172, 21066, TD 1440. These lots are located in Garapan between Joeten Hafadai Shopping Center and Orchid Street (Cpl. Derence Jack road). They are zoned as Tourist Resort.


C. Old Business

D. Executive (Closed) Session


E. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogomoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Caller Box 10007, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Office,
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION
April 28, 2015

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Time Creation Inc	04/15/2015 SLRm-2015-X-022	In-Water Vessel Maintenance	Lagoon & Reef Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (04/15/2015)*
2. Time Creation Inc	04/15/2015 SPlm-2015-X-023	Dry Dock	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (04/15/2015)*
3. Division of Agriculture	04/17/2015 SSm-2015-X-024	Relocation of Signage	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (04/23/2015)*
4. Saipan Sea Cruise	04/21/2015 SPlm-2015-X-025	Dry Dock	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Under Review
5. Aquaville Inc.	04/21/2015 SLRm-2015-X-02	Scuba Diving Operation	Lagoon & Reef Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (04/23/2015)*
6. Best Sunshine Int'l	04/23/2015 SLRm-2015-X-027	Photographic Activities	Shoreline & Managaha	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (04/23/2015)*

Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Guam Guard members indicted, under investigation for possible G-RAP fraud

The Guam National Guard is advising the public of an ongoing investigation and expect additional indictments into possible fraudulent receipt of enlisted recruitment bonuses paid under the National Guard's Recruiting Assistance Program, G-RAP, by certain members of the Guam Army National Guard.

The investigations were conducted by the Army Criminal Investigative Command, known as the CID, under the purview of the U.S. Attorney. As a background, these investigations have been occurring nationwide by CID as a result of U.S. Senate scrutiny of the G-RAP Program.

The G-RAP Program, which

paid National Guard members, retirees, and civilians to recruit friends and family, was established at the height of the Iraq war in 2005 to help the Guard achieve its recruiting goals. The program was later expanded to the Army Reserve and Regular Army.

According to a *USA Today* story, "the program was cancelled in 2012 after audits turned up evidence of potential fraud. More than 800 soldiers nationwide are under criminal investigation for gaming the National Guard program."

The Guam National Guard is committed to correcting any problems identified by the Army Audit Agency and CID investigations of the G-RAP

Program. We are working closely with civil authorities to identify and rectify situations where fraud was committed, and to discipline those who were negligent in their duties. As with all alleged criminal acts, we take this issue very seriously and are cooperating fully.

"Brig. Gen. Roderick R. Leon Guerrero, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, is very disappointed when any soldier or airmen violates the ethics and integrity of the military values that we learn and live by throughout our careers. If our members choose to do otherwise, they are subject to further discipline or removal from the

Guam National Guard."

"...These cases are under investigation by the U.S. Army C.I.D. and the U.S. At-

torney's Office, and, therefore, the Guam National Guard cannot divulge details or make any comments until the com-

pletion of the investigations or should there be further indictments." (*Guam National Guard*)

The Pacific Way TV show celebrates 20 years

SUVA, Fiji—The Secretariat of the Pacific Community's flagship TV show, *The Pacific Way*, marks a milestone of 20 years on air with its 2015 season premiere this Sunday.

What started as a trial for exchanging news stories, with just one tape being circulated between TV stations in the Cook Islands, Niue and Fiji, has evolved into a popular, weekly half-hour program that is now distributed to 20 stations across the Pacific.

"Twenty years of producing stories that matter to Pacific people is a proud achievement for our team at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community," *The Pacific Way* team leader, Joji Nabalarua, said.

"We're striving to keep the show relevant, entertaining and informative by always look-

ing at ways to add a little more flavor to the format. In 2015, viewers can also look forward to some great stories from places we've never filmed before like Kiriritmati, the world's largest atoll, and also Yap in Federated States of Micronesia," Nabalarua said.

The regional season launch of *The Pacific Way* will begin with Fiji Television Limited's Fiji One Channel at 5:30pm on Sunday.

A formal celebration to mark the show's 20th anniversary is planned for later this year.

Production of *The Pacific Way* began in 1995 with seed funding provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and with set props such as tapa cloth, fishing nets and carvings donated to SPC

by various islands around the Pacific.

Prominent Fiji media personality Lenora Qereqeretabua has anchored the show since the beginning, originally alongside Yaminiasi Gaunavou.

She says while *The Pacific Way* has undergone changes over the years, it remains true to its purpose.

"The show has been an opportunity for us Pacific Islanders to really appreciate our own culture, our own traditions, languages, fashion and the sorts of challenges we're facing now in terms of environment, food security and health, for example," Qereqeretabua said.

To view previous episodes, see *The Pacific Way* playlist: www.youtube.com/user/spnc1. (*SPC*)



WORK IT!

Dancers perform a modern dance routine on Saturday at the 34th Flame Tree Arts Festival at the Civic Center in Susupe. The festival concluded Sunday night.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Quenga sentenced to 12 months

Johnny J.S. Quenga, 38, of Agat, Guam, was sentenced Friday to 12 months imprisonment, two years supervised release and 200 hours community service before Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, in the District Court of Guam.

Quenga pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute ice. Quenga is a co-defendant in *U.S. v. Francisco Arias, et al.* The case involved Arias and Cortez-Zelaya sending ice to various individuals in Guam. Quenga received a reduced sentence because he cooperated with the government.

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S.

Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, stated: "Our community is not immune [to] the poison of methamphetamine. This case illustrates the hard work our partners in law enforcement do every day to stop the distribution of methamphetamine into Guam."

This conviction resulted from the concerted efforts of law enforcement partners in the OC-DETF investigation, a focused multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional task force investigating and prosecuting the most significant drug trafficking organizations throughout the United States by

leveraging the combined expertise of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

This OCDETF investigation involved federal agents and local law enforcement officers of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations, Guam Police Department, Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, U.S. National Oceanic Atmosphere Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard Criminal Investigative Service.

The case was prosecuted by assistant U.S. attorney Clyde Lemons, Jr. (*USAO*)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 28, 2010

Hirshbein appointed as federal relations manager

The Department of Labor has appointed Labor administrative hearing officer Barry Hirshbein as its federal relations manager, Labor's special counsel Deanne Siemer disclosed yesterday. Siemer told Saipan Tribune in an e-mail that Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat tapped Hirshbein for the position to coordinate federal matters in the area of labor. Siemer said the establishment of prevailing wages in the CNMI for purposes of federal programs was among the questions asked during her VTC presentation with members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at the Northern Marianas College on Tuesday. Siemer is currently in Washington D.C. She said the local Labor office is now working on the prevailing wage issue with the U.S. Labor Department.

Firefighter arrested for alleged contempt of court

Police arrested on Tuesday a firefighter who, despite a court order requiring him to stay away from his former girlfriend, allegedly went inside her apartment to take the boots and belt he needed for his work. Firefighter I Jelani Sablan Tilipao, 28, was arrested for contempt of court, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace. The court earlier imposed a \$10,000 cash bail for Tilipao's temporary liberty but Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman reduced this to \$300 cash yesterday, at the request of chief public

defender Adam Hardwicke, Tilipao's counsel. The government, represented by assistant attorney general Michael Evangelista, did not oppose it.

April 28, 2008

US employers bracing for shortage of alien workers

Breakfast will not be served this summer at Cape Cod's Crown & Anchor. The Provincetown resort and entertainment complex usually hires 10 to 12 people from Jamaica and Eastern Europe each summer as cooks, housekeepers and maintenance workers. But new visa restrictions mean the guest workers it used last year aren't expected back. With fewer workers, the resort's management realized it wouldn't have the manpower to serve three meals a day. Employers around the country who thrive on seasonal business are preparing to lose thousands of foreign workers they've hired in past summers to work in restaurants, hotels, landscaping and other industries.

3 indicted for trafficking 'ice'

Three men were arrested and charged in federal court for trafficking methamphetamine hydrochloride or "ice" last December on Saipan. Gregory Sablan Kalen, Lawrence Sablan Kalen, and Manuel Aldan Sablan were brought to the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Friday. The three, who appeared with court-appointed lawyers, pleaded not guilty. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set the jury trial for June 30, 2008 at 9am. Munson granted assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley's motion for no bail at this time for the defendants. He remanded them back into the custody of the U.S. Marshal. According to the indictment, Gregory Kalen, also known as G, Goro, and Greg-

gory Sablan Kani; Lawrence Kalen; and Manuel A. Sablan, also known as Manny Sablan, conspired to distribute "ice" on Dec. 1 to 13, 2007.

April 28, 2006

'Arrested workers not paid the hourly rate, briefed on escape'

The illegal workers arrested during a raid at Rifu Apparel Corp. in As Lito were not paid the hourly rate and were given prior instructions about an escape route in the event law enforcers approach the compound, according to the Division of Immigration. Immigration Investigator Erwin Flores, in an affidavit in support of the arrest and search warrants, said that, based on their confidential informant and investigation, it was one Haiyu Han who hired, supervised and paid the illegal workers at Rifu Apparel Corp. in As Lito. Han was among the 55 alien workers arrested by authorities during a raid at Rifu Apparel and R&B Corp. in Chalan Kanoa Thursday morning for allegedly engaging in unlawful employment and immigration fraud.

Man convicted of pot cultivation A man was convicted yesterday for cultivating 40 marijuana plants in his farm on Capitol Hill. Jose Castro, 56, pleaded guilty to trafficking of a controlled substance. Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman accepted Castro's plea and sentenced him to two years in prison, all suspended except for nine days. Following a plea agreement, Wiseman gave Castro credit for the nine days he had already served in jail. Wiseman placed the defendant on two years probation and ordered him to pay \$1,000 fine and \$50 in court assessment fee. The judge directed Castro to perform 300 hours of community work service during the probationary period.



HOPWOOD WINNERS

Each school year, Hopwood Jr. High School students participate in the Lunar Calendar Contest of the DLNR Fishery Department. Out of 80-plus students that participated this year, nine Hopwood Jr. High School students were winners and they were awarded by the DLNR Secretary Richard Seman and staff Joaquin Ogumoro and Tony Moore yesterday at Hopwood's school library for winning first, second, and third place as well as honorable mention. Vic Cabrera, CTE teacher at Hopwood, was the coordinator of this activity. The Home of the Hilitais is very proud of its students' achievement and bringing pride and joy to the school. The students were given many fishing equipment as part of their prizes and a copy of the Lunar Calendar.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

USAID airlifts relief supplies to Chuuk and Yap

KOLONIA, Federated States of Micronesia—On April 22, the United States airlifted critical relief supplies to Chuuk and Yap states in the Federated States of Micronesia to address critical humanitarian needs as a result of Typhoon Maysak.

The typhoon struck Chuuk and Yap from March 29 to April 1, causing widespread destruction and affecting approximately 29,000 people.

Through USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, the United States is providing relief supplies to families in Chuuk and Yap who were affected by the

storm. This airlift will provide heavy-duty plastic sheeting to help repair shelter and provide much-needed shade, since the storm destroyed many homes and much of the tree cover that protects island residents from the hot sun.

USAID is also providing water containers to assist families with collecting and storing fresh water until storage tanks and rain catchment systems can be repaired, as well as providing water treatment supplies to improve access to safe drinking water.

Through the International Organization for Migration, USAID has

delivered relief items and water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance to families in need.

USAID has provided more than \$2 million to date for humanitarian relief, including emergency supplies and

food assistance, to help those affected by Typhoon Maysak. In addition, at the request of the government of the FSM, the U.S. deployed a robust team of disaster assistance personnel to the FSM to conduct disaster assessments

in Chuuk and Yap.

The United States remains committed to helping the people of the FSM and will continue to stand by them in their time of need. (*U.S. Embassy Kolonia*)



Unloading the plane in Chuuk.

U.S. EMBASSY KOLONIA

Court denies defendants' motion to suppress

The Office of the Attorney General's criminal division triumphs in a ruling handed down by the NMI Superior Court.

On April 22, 2015, Associate Judge Joseph Camacho issued a ruling that denied John Benevente Reyes' motion to suppress evidence. A motion to suppress is filed when defendant seeks to exclude evidence from trial.

On Oct. 10, 2014, the Department of Public Safety responded to a 911 call with a tip that four men in a vehicle parked outside Dolphin Wholesale were smoking methamphetamine. Officer Maliyuf and Officer Hosono responded to the call. When the officers arrived, they observed four men in the vehicle described by the concerned citizen. The officers approached the car to investigate and discovered methamphetamine in a bag being carried by the defendant.

Camacho held that the tip was sufficiently reliable because it was made while the eyewitness was observing the crime and the officers corroborated the details from the tip when they arrived on scene. Furthermore, Camacho found that Officer Hosono properly seized the methamphetamine and followed appropriate protocol. Assistant attorney general Emily Cohen represented the government.

The Attorney General's Office would like to recognize the hard work of the Department of Public Safety and assistant attorney general Emily Cohen.

"Any citizen witnessing a crime should immediately report it to the police or crime stoppers. In this case, a concerned citizen made our Commonwealth safer for everyone," stated Attorney General Edward Manibusan. (*OAG*)

Man hurt in moped, car collision

On Saturday night, April 25, 2015, at about 6:50pm, police were dispatched to an auto-moped accident at the intersection of Town House Parking lot (southern entrance/exit) and Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa.

The victim, a Chinese male, 47, was operating a blue moped and was traveling on the outer southbound lane of Beach Road, approaching the intersection of the Town House parking lot exit (south end). A gray 2013 Toyota

Highlander 5 wagon car, operated by a 27-year-old local female, was attempting to make a left turn onto Beach Road and travel north when it collided with the moped.

The operator of the moped was injured and transported to the Commonwealth Health Center Emergency Room for further treatment. Injuries of the victim will not be released.

The investigation on this case is ongoing. (*DPS*)

Registration ongoing for history research workshop

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is continuing to accept applications for a 40-hour history research workshop to be held from June 29 to July 3 at the Northern Marianas College.

This workshop, facilitated by University of Guam professor Dr. Michael Clement Jr., will provide participants with the basic tools to conduct historical research in the Mariana Islands.

Participants will learn how to identify historically significant topics, develop scholarly research proposals, navigate local archives, and conduct oral history.

The workshop will also familiarize

participants with the technical aspects of writing a scholarly research paper.

In addition to methodology, the course will introduce participants to the ethical concerns and cultural/historical implications of conducting research in small island communities.

Each participant will produce a short research paper by the conclusion of the workshop and authors will be invited to present

their papers at the upcoming 3rd Marianas History Conference in September.

The workshop will be limited to 15 participants and selection will be competitive. It is open to the gen-

eral public. Priority will be given to classroom history and social studies teachers and instructors.

Application forms may be downloaded from council's website www.northernmarianashumanities.org or picked up at the council office in the Springs Plaza building in Gualo Rai.

Applications must be received by the council on or before June 1, 2015.

Clement is an assistant professor of history at UOG. He holds an MA in Micronesian Studies from UOG and a Ph.D. in Pacific History from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Contact council staff at 235-4785 for more information about this upcoming event. (*NMI Humanities Council*)



Clement

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Why NASA's New Horizons voyage to Pluto and beyond is so cosmic

People of Earth: Only rarely do you get the chance to explore a new world, so buckle up because the moment is approaching at a speed of 30,000 mph. That's how fast NASA's New Horizons spacecraft is hurtling toward its destination of tiny, distant Pluto. Just 60 million miles or so to go before the planned July 14 flyby—after a journey lasting more than nine years and 3 billion miles.

You remember Pluto, the once-beloved planet, smallest, maybe cutest of the nine with its oddball elliptical orbit, until it was kicked out of the band like a disrespected drummer. That happened in 2006 because it did not meet new criteria for planethood set by the International Astronomical Union. Pluto's a dwarf planet now.

But let's look past that insult to consider the science and meaning of NASA's fantastic voyage. Pluto is the final major, unexplored destination in our solar system (well, that we know about). Scientists, and even curious grade-schoolers, know a lot about the other planets because NASA spacecraft have flown to each. They know less about Pluto, which has been viewed and studied only from afar.

The last breakthrough moment of this type was in 1989 when NASA's Voyager 2 flew past Neptune, becoming the only object from earth to visit planet No. 8. That spacecraft discovered four rings around Neptune and five moons, one of which, Triton, has a nitrogen ice volcano.

Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 continue to fly. They are way out in deep space now, but neither cruised past Pluto. So while there have been plenty of other astronomical discoveries since that visit to Neptune, there's been no new world to conquer — until now.

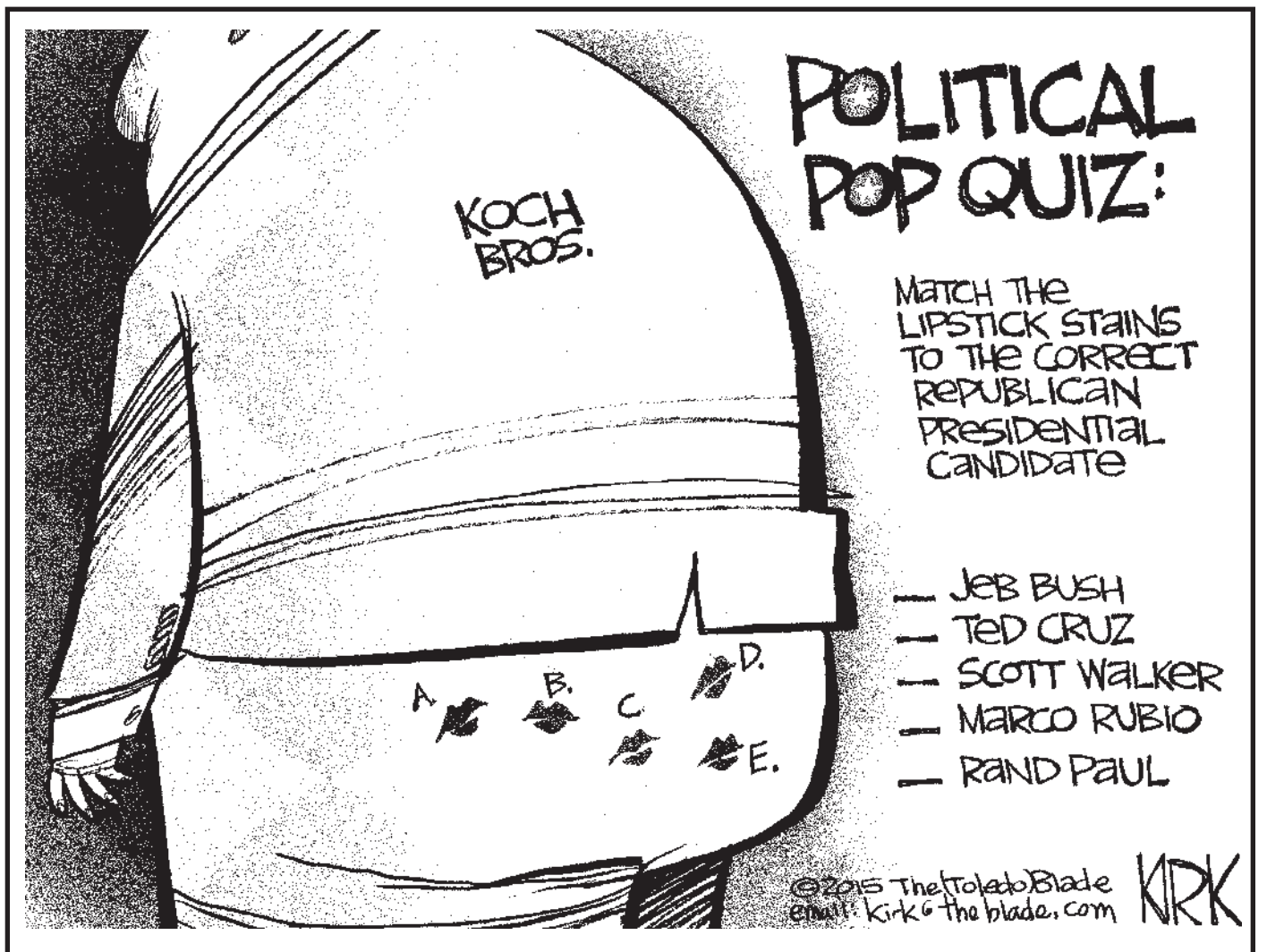
"You think of Pluto as a dot of light," Alan Stern, New Horizons' principal investigator, or top scientist, told us. "It's about to become a real world in living color."

The first color photo of Pluto showed up last week, smudgy from a distance of 71 million miles. Expect a more exciting show when New Horizons arrives on the scene with its cameras, spectrometers and plasma and dust detectors, getting as close as 7,750 miles from Pluto's surface. Some spectacular pictures should show up quickly, but it will take more than a year for New Horizons to transmit everything it records back to Earth. That will allow the spacecraft to devote most of its attention to gathering more data.

The cosmic dust-up over Pluto's identity is still contentious in science circles, but what New Horizons is about relates to the big picture—the very big picture. What else is out there 3 billion miles from earth and beyond? Will the inevitable discoveries again change the way we think about our place in the universe?

On its \$700 million journey, managed by Johns Hopkins' Applied Physics Laboratory, New Horizons will map the geology of icy Pluto and study its atmosphere and seasons. It also will look at Charon and the other four known moons that orbit Pluto. After that? Whoosh! Assuming funding is approved to continue the mission, New Horizons will head deeper into the Kuiper Belt, the mysterious neighborhood surrounding Pluto that spreads toward the outer edges of our solar system.

See NASA on Next Page



For the GOP, it's the billionaires' primary

The news that delivered the biggest jolt to the 2016 presidential campaign this week wasn't anything the candidates said or did.

It was an offhand comment from a billionaire, David H. Koch, at a dinner of wealthy Republicans in New York.

"Scott Walker is terrific," Koch told a reporter for the New York Observer. "He's a tremendous candidate."

The New York Times reported that Koch was essentially endorsing the Wisconsin governor as his favorite in the GOP race. It sounded as if the Koch primary, in which Republicans compete to unlock billions of dollars from a network of conservative donors, was over.

Until Koch walked it back, that is. "I am not endorsing or supporting any candidate for president at this point in time," he said. Koch says he and his brother, Charles G. Koch, still intend to remain neutral in the GOP primaries—although they do intend to summon candidates to a round of auditions this summer.

That's where the action is right now in the not-very-majestic process by which we are choosing our next president. The most important players aren't the candidates; they're the mega-donors. In American politics, money talks.

That's always been true, of course. But this year, we're reaching new lows: The Republican race has devolved into a battle among headstrong billionaires, each with a pet candidate.

David Koch, whose family made its money in coal, has Walker. (For all his protestations of neutrality, Koch sounded pretty smitten.) Norman Braman, who owns 23 car dealerships, has Marco Rubio. Robert Mercer, a New York hedge fund manager, has Ted Cruz. Foster Friess, an investment manager, has Rick Santorum. (Yes, Santorum is still in the running—thanks in large part to the generosity of Friess.)

The biggest mega-donor of them all, Las Vegas casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, is still playing hard to get. All the candidates, including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, are courting him.

There's something grotesque about a process that requires serious politicians to hover anxiously around a few donors who can make or break a campaign at whim.

And no, this isn't a rant about the Republican Party. I have no doubt that plenty of Democratic candidates would do pretty much the same thing. It just happens that there's not much of a contest yet on the Democratic side this year—but a wide-open race on the GOP side, and that has brought the .01 percent out to play.

The race for big money is bigger this year than in previous cycles for another reason: Campaigns are still discovering how they can exploit the freedom from regulation that the Supreme Court has granted since its Citizens United decision in 2010.

Most of the new money is being funneled through single-candidate "super PACs": fundraising committees set up to promote in-

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



dividual candidates. That was a new and experimental idea when President Obama and Mitt Romney first tried it in 2012, but now everybody has one. Cruz has four, each one directed by an individual mega-donor. Hillary Rodham Clinton has at least two.

On paper, a super PAC, which can take unlimited donations, can't coordinate what it does with a candidate's official campaign committee. In practice, there are plenty of ways around that rule. Bush, for example, just put his super PAC in the hands of Mark Murphy, who has worked for him in past elections; Murphy won't have much difficulty figuring out what his television commercials should say, even if he can't attend meetings at campaign headquarters.

But super PACs won't just help a candidate amplify his message; they'll also help determine who gets to be a candidate in the first place. A candidate with a billionaire in hand has a guaranteed place in early primaries even if he has neither grass-roots nor party support. (Think Newt Gingrich in 2012.) On the other hand, a candidate without billionaires may not be able to run a viable campaign at all. (Sen. Bernie Sanders, the independent Vermont socialist, said that problem is weighing on him as he considers whether to run.)

Campaign finance reform has historically been a low priority for most Americans. When the Pew Research Center asked voters in 2012 to rank their concerns, campaign finance was near the bottom.

This year could be different. Democratic pollster Stan Greenberg says public alarm is rising, and he's advised candidates to put reform on their list of promises (as Clinton did last week).

It's too late for significant changes this cycle. A constitutional amendment to reimpose contribution limits, which Clinton suggested she favors, would take years to pass. Democrats have proposed legislation to increase disclosure and provide federal matching funds for small donations, but their bills have stalled. Republicans have said they'd support more disclosure if all contribution limits were abolished, but that proposal isn't moving either.

If, however, voters demand change from the candidates, it's just possible that 2016 could be remembered as the year the tide of money crested, instead of just another campaign that saw the dollars rise. Meanwhile, maybe we should ask for an interim measure. Instead of debates among the candidates, let's go straight to the top—and ask for debates among their donors instead.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The scientific consensus on guns

After the Sandy Hook tragedy, reporters often called me to ask for information on firearms. They wanted to know whether strong gun laws reduced homicide rates (I said they did); and, conversely, whether permissive gun laws lowered crime rates overall (I said they did not). I discovered that in their news articles journalists would write that I said one thing while some other firearms researcher said the opposite. This “he said she said” reporting annoyed me, because I knew that the scientific evidence was on my side.

One of the reporters I complained to said that he had covered climate change for many years. He explained that journalists were able to stop their “balanced” reporting of that issue only when objective findings indicated that the overwhelming majority of scientists thought climate change was indeed happening, and that it was caused by humans.

So I decided to determine objectively, through polling, whether there was scientific consensus on firearms. What I found won’t please the National Rifle Association.

My first step was to put together a list of relevant scientists. I decided that to qualify for the survey the researcher should have published on firearms in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, and that he or she should be an active scientist—someone who had published an article in the past four years. I was interested in social science and policy issues, so I wanted the articles to be directly relevant. I was not interested in scientists doing research in forensics, history, medical treatment, psychiatric issues, engineering or nonfirearms (for example, nail guns, electron guns).

Most of the scientists who were publishing relevant articles were from the fields of criminology, economics, public policy, political science and public health. Since there are typically many more au-

thors on public health articles than on criminology articles, to have a balanced list I decided to include only first authors. Graduate students working for me identified more than 300 distinct first authors, and found more than 280 email addresses.

Last May we began sending out short, monthly surveys. The first question on each survey asks how much the respondent agrees with a particular claim related to firearms, and the second and third questions ask the respondent to rate the quality of the scientific literature, as well as their own level of familiarity with the scientific literature on that particular topic.

So, for example, one survey asked whether having a gun in the home increased the risk of suicide. An overwhelming share of the 150 people who responded, 84 percent, said yes.

This result was not at all surprising because the scientific evidence is overwhelming. It includes a dozen individual-level studies that investigate why some people commit suicide and others do not, and an almost equal number of area-wide studies that try to explain differences in suicide rates across cities, states and regions. These area-wide studies find that differences in rates of suicide across the country are less explained by differences in mental health, suicide ideation or even suicide attempts than they are by differences in levels of household gun ownership.

A 2014 meta-analysis, conducted by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, of the scientific studies on guns and suicide concluded that access to firearms increases the risk of suicide. Similarly, the 2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention from the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and the U.S. Surgeon General concluded that “firearm access is a risk factor for suicide in the United States.”

As I said, I wasn’t surprised by the results of that questionnaire.

By DAVID HEMENWAY

Los Angeles Times

David Hemenway is a professor at the Harvard School of Public Health and director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center.



Still, it was nice to be able to document that the large majority of gun researchers have arrived at the same conclusion about firearms and suicide from their reading of the scientific literature.

I also found widespread confidence that a gun in the home increases the risk that a woman living in the home will be a victim of homicide (72 percent agree, 11 percent disagree) and that a gun in the home makes it a more dangerous place to be (64 percent) rather than a safer place (5 percent). There is consensus that guns are not used in self-defense far more often than they are used in crime (73 percent vs. 8 percent) and that the change to more permissive gun carrying laws has not reduced crime rates (62 percent vs. 9 percent). Finally, there is consensus that strong gun laws reduce homicide (71 percent vs. 12 percent).

Of course it’s possible to find researchers who side with the NRA in believing that guns make our society safer, rather than more dangerous. As I’ve shown, however, they’re in the minority.

Scientific consensus isn’t always right, but it’s our best guide to understanding the world. Can reporters please stop pretending that scientists, like politicians, are evenly divided on guns? We’re not.

You don’t need a bikini bridge to enjoy the beach—just a suit

When you’re thinking about bathing suit season, do me a personal favor, OK? Start appreciating your body before you start disrespecting it. Your body—including your thighs, your upper arms, your stomach and your tush—is not your enemy.

When somebody asks you whether you’re feeling good about heading to the beach, don’t make a sad face while grabbing them by the wrist and explaining the concept of “back fat.”

Tell them you can’t wait for summer because you’re going to slather yourself in sunscreen and head toward the water, wearing something comfortable to keep the sand out while keeping seagulls and cops away. That’s all a bathing suit needs to do.

If somebody has the nerve to ask how you feel about the way you look, tell them that your pituitary gland is drop-dead gorgeous and that, despite everything, your liver’s still functioning. Tell them you enjoy “looking within.”

Celebrate those parts of your body that keep you going. The rest are best left quietly to deal with themselves.

If you hate your body enough to talk trash about it constantly, just imagine how it’s tempted to react to you. You want to talk to your body the way the late, great Joan Rivers talked about trashy starlets in bad outfits? You think that’s the way to have a healthy relationship with either your inner or your outer self?

You say enough nasty stuff about your upper arms, they’ll start aching every time you pick up that 400-pound purse you insist on dragging everywhere. Soon, in solidarity, your elbows and ankles will receive the upper-arms’ memo and start protesting. They might develop just a touch of arthritis or arthritis-like symptoms to prove their point.

When I was talking with other women about how we might best go about refusing to let swimsuits sink our self-esteem, I came across a new concept that made all the other vanities seem almost benign.

Have you heard about the “bikini bridge”? No, it’s not a little polka-dotted applique for your dental work; we should have only been so lucky.

A bikini bridge is defined as “When a thin woman who has a flat or concave stomach”—that’s when I initially stopped reading, but keep going—“lies down, her bikini bottom should be suspended across her sculpted hipbones, leaving a shadowy gap.”

HAHAHA, whew, haha. Why can’t they come out and say “If you’re a woman over 30 or you weigh more than an even 100 pounds, please wear a full-body hazmat suit while approaching any beach, park or, not to put too fine a point on it—public area.”

My bikini bridge would, of course, be the Verrazano. It’s got 12 lanes, takes E-Z pass and has a sign saying “Life Is Worth Living.” I’m not even kidding.

Then I started thinking about how “bikini bridge” sounded like a title, as in “Bikini Bridge Over The River Cry.”

Professor Chad Stanley at Wilkes University suggested “Bikini Bridge Over Troubled Waters” and a pal from Texas thought “Bikini Bridges of Madison County” would work, but only if Meryl Streep used her Italian accent.

But whose attention are we hoping to get, really? Some random guy who strolls along the shore staring at women while they’re napping, trying to get a glimpse of anatomical architecture? That’d be a great story to tell the children. “Your Daddy loved my bikini bridge and that’s why you’re here.”

Immigration should be a basic human right

Throughout history, human beings have been in constant movement. If migration is certain and constant, why do so many Americans and their leaders make a big fuss about the migration of Latinos to the United States?

I will never forget the stories that my father told me about his experiences working as a bracero as part of a U.S.-Mexico guest worker program during the mid-20th century under which millions of Mexicans toiled in this country’s farms. I remember him telling me about being sprayed with chemicals and forced to live in overcrowded housing. He was charged for food and rent from the company store. When U.S. politicians insult immigrants, they also insult the memory of the hardworking migrants who produce our food, including my father.

Later, my mother worked as a domestic worker in the United States, cleaning the homes of Americans and raising their children. She treated these children like her own.

My older sisters also worked as domestic workers in the United States, starting as young as 13 years old.

By GINA BARRECA

The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. She can be reached through her website at <http://www.ginabarreca.com>.



The whole idea of girls and women striving to be desirable while not expressing desire isn’t such a hot idea, no matter what the season.

Do you know the real reason we worry about how others think we look at the beach? It’s because of the unflattering remarks we’re making in our own heads about other people.

That is where this starts—and that’s where we can help it end. Be generous instead of “judgey.”

Instead of tsk-tsking in a sanctimonious whisper, “Whoever told her she’d look good in THAT?” we could think, “There’s somebody who enjoys her food! I wanna sit next to her!”

Don’t say it because you’d look better in comparison, either; say it loud because it’s the truth.

That person will have the best picnic on the beach.

And that’s how to start a fun summer.

By ALVARO HUERTA

Tribune News Service



We all benefit from immigrant workers, such as my family.

In her work, Professor Bridget Anderson of Oxford University contends that we should strive for a world without borders. While some call her views utopian, she counters that borders are a dystopia.

Professor Michael Dear of the University of California, Berkeley argues a similar point in his recent book, “Why Walls Won’t Work: Repairing the U.S.-Mexico Divide,” about the failure of closed borders. He predicts that all border walls between countries will eventually come down.

Numerous Americans leave home for better jobs, education or simply for love. Aspiring immigrants should have the right to fulfill their dreams and aspirations.

Freedom to migrate is a basic human right.

NASA

From Page 10

There are billions of comets out there in the Kuiper Belt, maybe 100,000 larger bodies and something like six to 60 other Pluto-like proto-planets. That’s why Pluto was downgraded in the first place. It turned out to be the most visible of many little floating objects that never congealed into something bigger.

The existence of the Kuiper Belt as we now understand it was confirmed only in 1992, giving New Horizons’ trip a cosmic context all its own: You can think of Pluto as the end of the line of recognizable heavenly bodies, or the gateway to this newly defined, little-understood region of our solar system.


That’s what makes this adventure so great. By following New Horizons on its incredible journey, we can stick out heads way above the clouds and ponder our place in the infinite heavens.

(c)2015 Chicago Tribune

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds
10 to 15 mph.
Highs around 88.

▲87° ▼75°


WEDNESDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds
10 to 15 mph.
Highs around 88.

▲87° ▼75°


THURSDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼75°


FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼75°

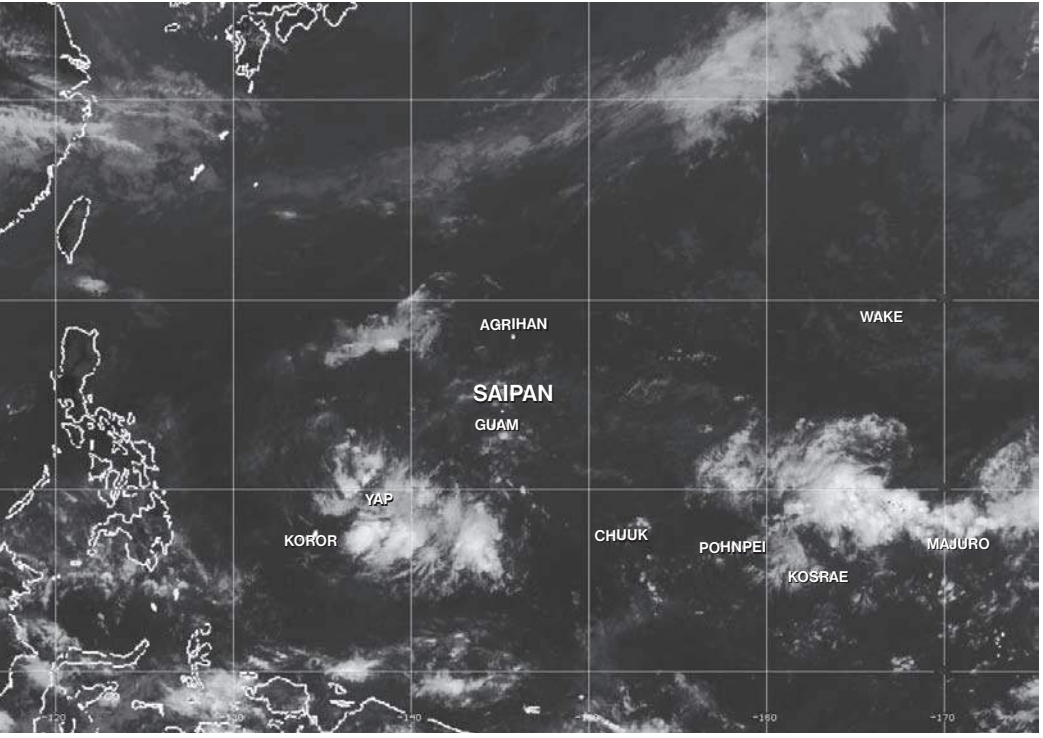
SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015


Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from near Iwo To Island at 25N142E to beyond 130E at 24N. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are present along and up to 150 miles north of this boundary. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of Saipan within 100 miles of a line from 17N134E to 19N140E. A broad circulation is centered south of Yap at 7N138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen across Yap state within 150 miles of a line from 10N136E to 6N145E. A surface trough near Kosrae extends northeast from 2N157E to 9N163E. Another surface trough near Majuro extends from 5N167E to 9N173E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over Kwajalein Atoll and near Majuro and north of Kosrae and Pohnpei between 7N and 11N from 160E to 178E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼78

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Thundershowers	▲65	▼55
Beijing	Showers	▲82	▼53
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼72
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼70
London	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲85	▼61
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲97	▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲62	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲73	▼77
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼49
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼61
Paris	Showers	▲60	▼41
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼53
Rome	Rain	▲64	▼57
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼51
San Francisco	Sunny	▲67	▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼53
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼61
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼48



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
5:10 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
4:37 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
11:05 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:56 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	1:55 PM	1:52 AM
Wednesday	2:42 PM	2:31 AM
Thursday	3:28 PM	3:10 AM
Friday	4:15 PM	3:48 AM
Saturday	5:03 PM	4:27 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NEWS DESK

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2015											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3			UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3		
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7		
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota			UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7		
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5			UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota		
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4			UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5		
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5			UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5		
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7			UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7		
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5			UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7			UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7			UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4		
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)						PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT			DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6			DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily		
DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1			OZ623	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily		
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7		
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7			7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6		
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4			OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7		
OZ624	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily			OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7			7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily		
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6								
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN			OZ704/623	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT		
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM			UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, ,3, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
DL287/275	6:05am	9:30pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:25pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6, 7 via GUM		
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM			UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota		
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM			UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM			UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM			UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM		
OZ624/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN			UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ746/623	12:40am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM			UA180/5071	9:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM			UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM		
UA5039/179	2:15pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM			UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM		
UA5078/179	3:05pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM			UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota		
OZ624/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN								

Business

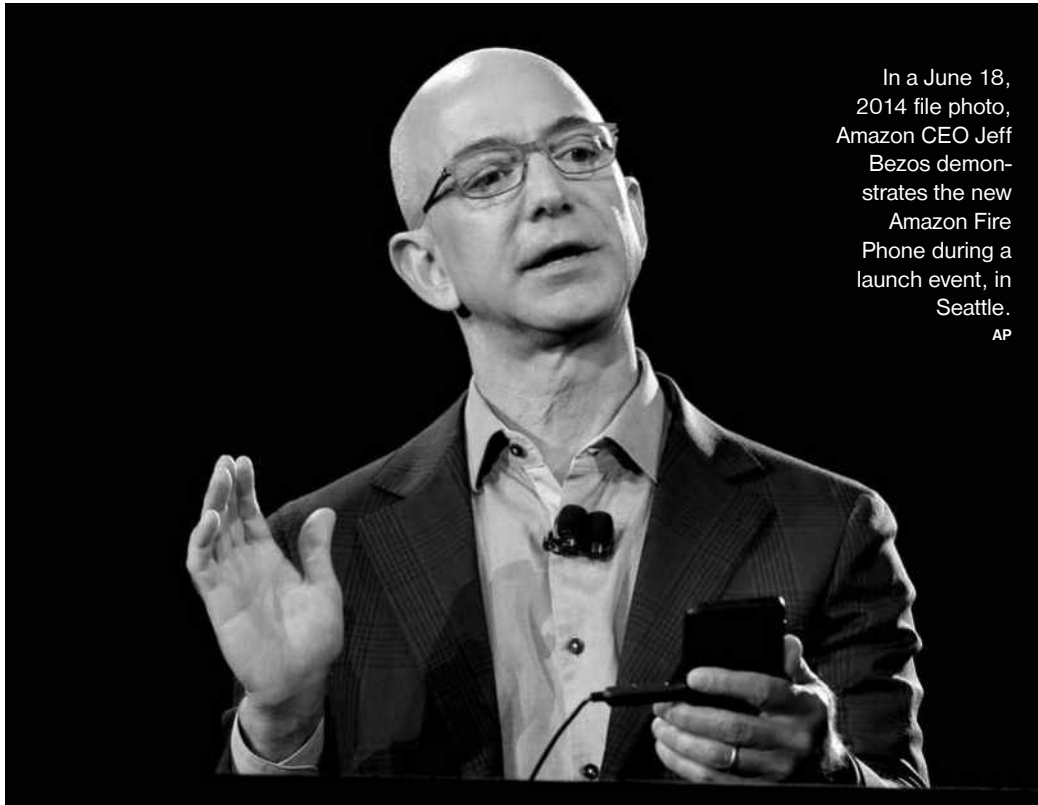
Internet billionaires face off in renewed Texas space race

VAN HORN, Texas (AP)—An isolated edge of vast West Texas is home to a highly secretive part of the 21st-century space race, one of two being directed in the Lone Star State by Internet billionaires whose personalities and corporate strategies seem worlds apart.

The presence of Blue Origin, LLC, the brainchild of Amazon

founder Jeff Bezos, barely registers in nearby Van Horn, a way station along Interstate 10, a full decade after he began buying land in one of Texas' largest and most remote counties.

Few visitors are allowed beyond the "No Trespassing" sign and a remote-controlled gate and into the desert and mountain environment reminiscent of the



In a June 18, 2014 file photo, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos demonstrates the new Amazon Fire Phone during a launch event, in Seattle. AP

bought at least seven ranches, totaling 1,900 square miles, near the Texas-New Mexico border and Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

"It's very secretive out there," said Maricel Gonzalez, chief appraiser for the Culberson County Appraisal District. She declined to describe it, citing a nondisclosure agreement. A UPS driver who recently emerged from the compound also declined to talk.

Nuny Morriss, a Van Horn city council member and FedEx delivery driver, said the site includes a "big warehouse-looking building and some offices ... But they don't let us go around in the back."

Blue Origin's presence in Van Horn is minimal. Morriss recalled word getting out a few years ago about a scheduled launch. Traffic at the local airstrip suggested that VIPs were coming in, and local officials were eager to join them. "No one in town got invited," Morriss said.

By contrast, SpaceX is frequently in the headlines thanks to its nearly \$2 billion federal contract. Attempts to reuse booster rockets have been rocky; it's failed three times to land them on a platform off the Florida coast.

SpaceX already has a rocket plant near Waco. With more than \$15 million in state incentives, it's also building a launch site at Boca Chica Beach, near Brownsville. Musk hopes for at least 12 rocket launches a year, starting late next year.

"The long-term goal is to create technology necessary to take humanity beyond Earth," said the 43-year-old South Africa native.

David Kanipe, a former NASA division chief now teaching at Texas A&M, says Musk and Bezos were cool to his offers of assistance.

Helping mom with medical appointments need not make or break job opportunity

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By **MARIE G. MCINTYRE**

Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*.

Q: I'm not sure how to tell a potential new employer about my family medical situation. My mother was recently diagnosed with cancer and will soon be starting chemotherapy. Although my siblings can handle most of her treatments, I will still need to help with some appointments.

After losing my job a few weeks ago, I am now the top candidate for a very desirable position. However, I have not yet informed the hiring manager about my mother's condition. Should I discuss this during my final interview or wait and tell him after I start work?

A: To protect your front-runner status, avoid any mention of potential absences during the interview process. While a savvy employer would never cite family issues as a reason for rejection, they could easily find a more acceptable explanation for not hiring you. So there's no point in taking that risk.

Once you're on the job, your boss should definitely be told about these special circumstances. But since your leave requirements are apparently not excessive, don't alarm him by overstating the problem. You just need to provide a realistic heads-up.

For example: "I thought I should let you know that I may occasionally need a few hours off to take my mother to some medical appointments. My siblings are also helping out, so this shouldn't happen too often."

Don't be surprised or offended if your manager has questions about the duration and timing of these appointments. Even the most sympathetic boss may have understandable concerns about how an employee's absence will affect the business.

Finally, if your employer is covered by the Family & Medical Leave Act, take time to familiarize yourself with those provisions. As a new employee, you will not be immediately eligible, but that information could be useful in the future.

Q: For some reason, I have been making silly mistakes in my new job. My boss is very angry and has given me one month to prove myself. If I continue to screw up, I will be fired.

I am only 24 years old and have lost two jobs in the past year, so I really want this one to work out. However, I'm not sure how to prevent these errors. Can you help?

A: Three successive failures indicate one of two problems: either you have some dreadful work habits or you are applying for jobs you cannot do. So instead of casually saying these mistakes happen "for some reason," you need to determine exactly why you are making them.

If you are qualified for this job, then you must work on discipline and self-control. Stay focused on your tasks, take time to do them properly, and double-check everything. If focusing has always been a problem for you, perhaps you should discuss this with your doctor.

But if you lack the required skills, even the most heroic efforts will not help. In that case, see if your boss would be willing to allow you time to learn. And during your next job search, be sure to apply only for positions that match your abilities.

Air Force's renowned Area 51 in Nevada. The privileged who do get inside decline to describe what they've seen, typically citing confidentiality agreements.

"No one gets in other than employees," says Robert Morales, editor of the weekly Van Horn Advocate newspaper.

At the opposite end—of Texas and the competition—is the highly visible SpaceX venture, led by PayPal co-founder and electric car maker Elon Musk. His company contracts with NASA to resupply the International Space Station and is building a launch site about 600 miles from Van Horn, on the southernmost Texas Gulf coast, with the much-publicized goal of sending humans to Mars.

SpaceX and Blue Origin are among several U.S. companies engaged in the private space business. Both men have seemingly unlimited resources—Bezos' wealth is estimated at nearly \$35 billion, Musk's at \$12 billion—and lofty aspira-

tions: launching a new era of commercial space operations, in part by cutting costs through reusable rockets.

Texas' glory days of space exploration, when "Right Stuff" Mercury astronauts trained in Houston and the city's name was the first word spoken on the moon by Neil Armstrong, are long gone. The utilitarian Space Shuttle fell to budget cuts, depletion and age, leaving astronauts to hitch rides on Russian rockets.

Any success by the newcomers would offer "significant potential for re-invigorating space research and development in the state," said John Junkins, director of the Center for Mechanics and Control at Texas A&M's Department of Aerospace Engineering.

Earlier this month, Bezos announced his company's new hydrogen rocket engine, designed for suborbital missions, had completed hundreds of tests at the West Texas site, adding,

"soon we'll put it to the ultimate test of flight." That could come late this year.

A more powerful engine for orbital flights, fueled by liquid oxygen and liquid natural gas, is being developed with United Launch Alliance, a venture of aerospace veterans Boeing Co. and Lockheed Martin Corp.

Blue Origin officials declined requests for an interview and site visit. "I'm so sorry," spokeswoman Brooke Crawford said. "It's just the way it is."

Bezos' love of space originated in Texas in the 1960s when his family moved to Houston, which dubbed itself "Space City USA."

"For me, space is something that I have been in love with since I was 5 years old," Bezos, 51, said in a September interview with The Washington Post, which he purchased in 2013. "I watched Neil Armstrong step onto the surface of the moon, and I guess it imprinted me."

Over the last decade, he has

FHB reports \$56M net income in 1Q

HAGÂTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaii's largest and oldest bank, grew its total assets to \$18.7 billion in the first quarter of 2015. The bank's loan and lease portfolio reached a new record of \$10.2 billion and deposits achieved a high of \$15.2 billion. The bank reported net income of \$56.5 million for the first quarter 2015, a 6.2 percent increase over the comparable period of 2014. The announcement was made by Bob Harrison, First Hawaiian Bank chairman, president and CEO.

"First Hawaiian Bank is off

to a great start in 2015, building on the momentum of 2014," said Harrison. "Assets, loans and deposits all achieved record levels during the quarter. As the economy continues to expand and more construction projects come on line, we expect to see strengthening consumer confidence and growth in job creation."

For the three months ended March 31, 2015, First Hawaiian Bank achieved the following over the prior year:

Total Assets: \$18.7 billion, up 8.5 percent.

Total Deposits: \$15.2 billion,

an increase of 9.6 percent.

Total Loans and Leases: were a record \$10.2 billion up 6.5 percent.

Non-Performing Assets to Total Assets: remained one of the lowest in the banking industry at 0.13 percent.

Efficiency Ratio: was 44.65 percent making First Hawaiian the most productive bank in Hawaii and one of the most efficient in the nation.

In the first quarter of 2015, First Hawaiian noted several accomplishments and milestones:

For the fourth straight year, First Hawaiian Bank was named one of Hawaii's Best Places to Work.

The First Hawaiian Bank first

quarter 2015 Business Activity Report (BAR) showed Hawaii credit and debit card same store sales volume were up by 4.63 percent with growth in 13 out of 16 sectors. This was the 21st consecutive quarter of positive growth. Supermarkets, Convenience Stores and Utilities sectors all posted over 15 percent gains for the first three months of 2015.

Retired U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki elected to serve on the First Hawaiian Bank Board.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with \$18.7 billion in total assets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a leading global financial services institution. (**FHB**)

Nation

‘Batman’ killer studied brain disorders before mass murder

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP)—James Holmes was growing volatile well before he put on a gas mask and body armor, strapped on a rifle, shotgun, pistol and ammunition, and slipped into a midnight premiere of the Batman film “The Dark Knight Rises.”

He was a sought-after neuroscientist-in-training, but he was falling apart. He told a classmate he wanted to kill people, prosecutors say. He fell out of favor with his professors, who suggested he find a new career. He stopped seeing his psychiatrist, then sent her text messages so threatening that she alerted University of Colorado campus police. He even mailed her his journal, in a package with burned \$20 bills.

Months before Holmes opened fire on the audience on July 20, 2012, killing 12 and injuring 70 more in one of America’s deadliest mass shootings, the 24-year-old doctoral student was preparing for violence.

He stockpiled weapons, ammunition, tear gas grenades and riot gear, and rigged his apartment to become a potentially lethal booby trap, cranking techno music in an apparent attempt to lure someone into opening his door. One neighbor who came to complain narrowly avoided a fiery explosion by walking away.

Many observers hope Holmes’ death penalty trial be-



AP
In this Jan. 20, 2015 courtroom file sketch, James Holmes, left, and defense attorney Tamara Brady are depicted, as they sit in court on the first day of jury selection in Holmes’ trial, at the Arapahoe County Justice Center, in Centennial, Colo. Jan. 20, 2015.

ginning Monday will finally show what twisted a seemingly dedicated scholar into a sadistic killer. Prosecutors have suggested he was angry over his academic decline. But anyone looking for a trigger or tipping point with mass killers is usually disappointed, said J. Reid Meloy, a forensic psychiatrist at the University of California, San Diego.

“There’s no such thing as someone snapping,” said Meloy, who is not involved in the Holmes case. “What we know now is that even if a person is psychotic, they can still

plan and methodically go about the preparations to carry out a mass murder.”

Mass violence is usually premeditated, following a path that begins with a personal grievance and is complicated by narcissism and paranoia. But only 1 in 5 of these killers is psychotic, Meloy said.

Psychosis is something Holmes knew all about. Before the shooting, he was preparing to give a class presentation on “MicroRNA Biomarkers” that provide a biological basis for psychiatric and neurological disorders.

About the same time, he was

amassing deadly firepower: Two Glock pistols. A shotgun. An AR-15 rifle. Boxes upon boxes of ammunition—6,295 rounds in all.

Police who searched his apartment also found prescription medications for anxiety and depression, 50 cans and bottles of beer, paper shooting targets, and a “Batman” mask.

“He was absolutely out of his mind,” said Denver defense attorney Iris Eytan, who initially represented Holmes but is no longer involved.

She compared Holmes to schizophrenics she has defend-

ed: They are erratic and irrational; they hallucinate.

“Look at his eyes, they’re completely dilated,” she said, referencing a mug shot showing Holmes with hair dyed comic-book orange.

“He was under the influence of something, and I believe it was mental illness,” she said.

Prosecutors say the meticulous plotting shows Holmes was deliberate and calculated, and that evidence suggests he knew right from wrong. For example, Holmes searched online for “rational insanity,” and took haunting selfies the night of the shooting, sticking out his tongue and smiling with a Glock under his face.

“He didn’t care who he killed or how many he killed, because he wanted to kill all of them,” Prosecutor Karen Pearson said.

After an emotionally wrenching trial lasting four months or more, the 12 final jurors, chosen from a pool of 9,000, will have to decide whether he was insane at the time.

If so, the 27-year-old inmate with a doughy face and vacant eyes who sits tethered to a courtroom floor will be committed indefinitely to a state psychiatric hospital.

If not, prosecutors will press for the death penalty over life in prison without parole.

Holmes’ former psychiatrist and two court-appointed doctors who spent days interviewing him will likely be asked questions that could explain how a seemingly harmless college student without so much as a traffic ticket on his record could march up and down the aisles of a stadium-style theater, mercilessly shooting down those who tried to flee.

ACROSS THE NATION

Film to probe Newark schoolyard murders’ toll on family

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—For what seemed a small eternity, Shalga Hightower epitomized the picture of parental grief in the aftermath of Newark’s 2007 schoolyard killings, when a group of men and boys, including one who turned 15 that day, lined up her college-bound daughter and two friends and shot them each in the back of the head. As national media held Newark up as a symbol of the gun violence plaguing American cities, Hightower became an unwavering presence at the dozens of court proceedings that followed. Her courtroom vigil stretched nearly six years, long after the initial crush of attention subsided. The overpowering sorrow that engulfed her has eased over time, but Hightower’s determination to honor her daughter’s memory has not. Recently, she embarked on a documentary film project that highlights the struggle of families victimized by gun violence, through the prism of her own experience.

Photographer says Baltimore police beat him during protest

BALTIMORE (AP)—A photo editor for a Baltimore newspaper says he was beaten by police at a protest over the death of Freddie Gray. J.M. Giordano, who works at the City Paper, says Baltimore police “swarmed over” him and hit him repeatedly. A video posted to the newspaper’s website Sunday shows at least

two police officers in riot gear hitting and kicking Giordano as the person filming screams, “He’s a photographer! He’s press!” The 41-year-old Giordano says his head hit the ground during the beating, which he says only stopped when someone pulled him out of the fray. Sait Serkan Gurbuz, a photographer with Reuters, says police detained him as he shot pictures of the scuffle. Reuters says Gurbuz was cited with failure to obey orders.

Coast Guard: Second body found in Alabama waters, 5 missing

DAUPHIN ISLAND, Ala. (AP)—Coast Guard crews searched for five people missing Sunday after recovering two bodies following a powerful weekend storm that capsized several sailboats competing in a regatta near Mobile Bay. One body was discovered after Saturday’s storm and another Sunday morning, said Major Steve Thompson, director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety’s Marine Patrol Division. Authorities said crews used boats and planes to search the Alabama waters, including areas near Dauphin Island where anxious family members have gathered at a Coast Guard station awaiting updates. Red Cross volunteers and an ambulance also were at the site. Names of the missing and deceased were not immediately released Sunday. One person was rescued Saturday evening.

Family, friends in Baltimore mourn death of arrested man

BALTIMORE (AP)—Mourners filed for hours on Sunday past the coffin of the man who died after sustaining serious injuries in the custody of Baltimore police, somberly paying respects after a night of violent protests.

The stream of people continued all afternoon at the wake for Freddie Gray, the 25-year-old black man who died April 19 just days after an encounter with police left him with grave spinal injuries.

The mourners entered a funeral home and passed Gray’s silk-draped, white coffin. There, he lay dressed in a white shirt,

black pants, white sneakers and an all-white Los Angeles Dodgers baseball cap.

Above the lid to the coffin was a floral arrangement and inside the lid was a pillow with a screen-printed picture of Gray flanked by doves and the quote, “Peace, Y’all” at the bottom edge.

Mourners also gathered Sunday outside the funeral home and some held up signs that read, “We remember Freddie” and “Our Hearts Are With The Gray Family.”

Melissa McDonald, 36, who said she was Gray’s cousin,

wore a shirt with “Freddie Forever” printed on the back. She described her cousin as a non-violent person.

“He didn’t deserve to die the way he did,” she said.

Gray’s funeral is scheduled Monday.

In Washington, the White House said the head of President Barack Obama’s initiative for young men of color would attend. Broderick Johnson, chairman of the My Brother’s Keeper Task Force and a Baltimore native, is to represent the administration accompanied by

two other officials, the White House said in a statement.

At a church service earlier Sunday, Pastor Jamal Bryant told churchgoers, including members of Gray’s family, at Empowerment Temple AME Church that “somebody is going to have to pay” for Gray’s death.

Bryant told churchgoers that if “you’re black in America your life is always under threat.” Bryant also talked about violence that erupted Saturday night during what began as a peaceful demonstration attended by more than a thousand people.

Clinton Foundation admits missteps in donor disclosure

WASHINGTON (AP)—The acting chief executive of the Clinton Foundation is acknowledging the global philanthropy made mistakes in how it disclosed its donors amid growing scrutiny as Hillary Rodham Clinton opens her presidential campaign.

In a blog posting Sunday, Maura Pally defended the foundation’s work and reaffirmed its commitment to transparency, describing its policies on donor disclosure and contributions from foreign governments as “stronger than ever.”

Still, Pally said the foundation expected to refile some of its tax forms, following a voluntary external review, because it had “mistakenly combined” government grants and donations. She said the foundation would “remedy” any errors but stressed the total revenue was reported accurately and that grants were properly broken out on audited statements on its website.

“Yes, we made mistakes, as many organizations of our size do, but we are acting quickly to remedy them, and have taken

steps to ensure they don’t happen in the future,” she said.

Pally also described the foundation’s work with the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership, which she said received funding from a separate organization in Canada. She said that partnership does not disclose its donors because under Canadian law they are not disclosed without prior permission from each donor.

“This is hardly an effort on our part to avoid transparency,” Pally said.

That partnership has come

under scrutiny because it is named after Frank Giustra, a Canadian mining billionaire who has donated more than \$31 million to the Clinton Foundation since the mid-2000s.

Since announcing her run for president, Clinton has sought to dismiss questions about financial support of her family charity and allegations of undue influence as “distractions and attacks” by Republicans seeking to discredit her. The philanthropy was started in 2001 by former President Bill Clinton.

Asia

Rescuers struggle to reach many in Nepal quake

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—The death toll from Nepal's earthquake soared past 3,300 Monday, and how much higher it would rise depended largely on the condition of vulnerable mountain villages that rescue workers were still struggling to reach two days after the disaster.

Reports received so far by aid groups suggest that many communities perched on mountainsides are devastated or struggling to cope.

Landslides hindered rescue teams that tried to use mountain trails to reach those in need, said Prakash Subedi, chief district official in the Gorkha region, where the quake was centered. Matt Darvas, a member of the aid group World Vision, said it is likely that many communities can be reached only by helicopter.

"Villages like this are routinely affected by landslides, and it's not uncommon for entire villages of 200, 300, up to 1,000 people to be completely buried by rock falls," Darvas said.

Saturday's magnitude 7.8 earthquake spread horror from Kathmandu to small villages and to the slopes of Mount Everest, triggering an avalanche that buried part of the base camp packed with foreign climbers preparing to make their summit attempts. At least 18 people died there and 61 were injured.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Komal Singh Bam said



In this Sunday, April 26, 2015 photo, a person critically injured in an avalanche is carried on a stretcher to be evacuated out of Everest Base Camp, Nepal.

Monday that Nepal's death toll had risen to 3,218 people. That does not include the avalanche dead, which are counted by the mountaineering association. Another 61 people were killed in neighboring India, and China reported 20 people dead in Tibet.

Kathmandu district chief administrator Ek Narayan Aryal said tents and water were being handed out Monday at 10 locations in Kathmandu, but that aftershocks were leaving everyone jittery. The largest, on Sunday, was magnitude 6.7.

"There have been nearly 100 earthquakes and aftershocks, which is making rescue work difficult. Even the rescuers are scared and running because of them," he said.

In Kathmandu, tens of thousands of people spent the night sleeping in parks or on a golf course. Others camped in open squares lined by cracked buildings and piles of rubble.

"We don't feel safe at all. There have been so many aftershocks. It doesn't stop," said Rajendra Dhungana, 34, who

spent Sunday with his niece's family for her cremation at the Pashuputi Nath Temple.

Acrid, white smoke rose above the Hindu temple, Nepal's most revered. "I've watched hundreds of bodies burn," Dhungana said.

The capital city is largely a collection of small, poorly constructed brick apartment buildings. The earthquake killed well over 1,000 people in Kathmandu and destroyed swaths of the oldest neighborhoods, but many were surprised by how few modern structures

collapsed in the quake.

Aid workers also warned that the situation could be far worse near the epicenter. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake was centered near Lamjung, a district about 80 kilometers (50 miles) northwest of Kathmandu. While not far away, poor roads and steep mountains make Lamjung difficult to reach. Even before the quake, it could take six hours to drive from Kathmandu to parts of the area. Now, many of the few roads are believed to be cut off by small landslides.

Japan's prime minister goes to US to showcase close ties

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrived in the U.S. on Sunday for a weeklong visit to showcase the success of the alliance built from Tokyo's defeat in World War II, while promoting a political agenda based on still stronger military and economic ties.

The visit will take Abe from Boston to the Silicon Valley, with ample time for hobnobbing with high-flying businesspeople like the founders of Facebook and Apple, Japanese scholars and celebrities.

With no major trade or economic deals expected, the aim, officials in Tokyo said, is to confirm an upgrading of joint defense guidelines and to advertise the bright side of Japan and its people, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, and possibly sell some bullet train systems.

Abe is first among several leaders of Asia, including China and South Korea, visiting the U.S. this year, a sign of Washington's growing attention to the region. He arrived in Boston on Sunday night for a stop at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and a dinner hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry.

He can point to his brief summit the week before with Chi-

nese President Xi Jinping as a sign of improving relations despite lingering friction over Japan's wartime history and territorial disputes. Abe still hasn't met bilaterally with South Korea's President Park Geun-hye due to a dispute over his stance on the issue of sex slaves—women forced to work in military brothels during the war.

But he will acknowledge the wartime past with a visit to the Holocaust Memorial National Museum. Abe will also go to Arlington National Cemetery and pay respects to Japanese-American war dead at the "Go for Broke" memorial.

"I plan to deliver a message that Japan and the United States, based on our strong ties, will together build peace and prosperity in the 21st century and open a new era," Abe told reporters Sunday just before his departure.

Abe was scheduled to speak at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government on Monday. He will travel to Washington for talks with President Barack Obama.

On Wednesday, he will become the first Japanese leader to address a joint session of Congress, and likely will seek to tilt the balance in favor of Obama's request for "fast-track"

rules to negotiate the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a 12-nation, a U.S.-led trade initiative. Recent ministerial-level talks between Japan and the United States have made progress, but officials say they don't expect a major breakthrough during Abe's visit.

In his address, Abe is expected to touch on historical issues before highlighting Japan's contributions to relations with the U.S. since its postwar occupation ended in 1952.

Abe said Sunday that he will focus on the future of Japan and the world. "I plan to show my vision about the future of Japan as we work with the United States, and about the world we want to achieve," he said.

The speech "is basically evolving around the Japan-U.S. relationship, how we have come a long way in 70 years," Japan's ambassador to the U.S., Kenichiro Sasae, told a recent seminar at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "What are the challenges we are heading for? What will be the best thing for the leaders to recognize and build together?"

Abe said he is somewhat nervous about making a speech in English, and is hoping the lawmakers will be kinder than their peers back home.

PH urges ASEAN to stop China in South China Sea

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The Philippines on Sunday urged its fellow Southeast Asian countries to take immediate steps to halt land reclamation by China in the disputed waters of the South China Sea, warning that failure to do so will see Beijing take "de facto control" of the area.

Malaysia's foreign minister, however, said that the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations will avoid confrontation with China and continue negotiations with Beijing on a binding code of conduct that would govern behavior in the area.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario told a meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers that if China's construction of artificial islands on reefs claimed by other countries is allowed to be completed, Beijing will impose its claim over more than 85 percent of the sea.

Rosario urged the grouping to "stand up" to China by urging it to halt its reclamation work, which threatened to militarize the region, infringe on rights of other states and damage the marine environment.

He warned that China, which has been dragging its

foot on ASEAN's push for a code of conduct, will aim to complete its reclamation activities before it agrees to conclude the code. If this happens, he said the code will legitimize China's reclamation.

"The threats posed by these massive reclamations are real and cannot be ignored or denied," he said. "ASEAN should assert its leadership, centrality and solidarity. ASEAN must show the world that it has the resolve to act in the common interest."

China, Taiwan and ASEAN members Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Brunei have overlapping claims in the South China Sea, which includes busy sea lanes and rich fishing grounds, and is believed to have large undersea deposits of oil and natural gas.

ASEAN has maintained a cautious stand in the dispute to avoid angering China, a key trading partner.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman told reporters that ASEAN is "very much concerned" about the reclamation, but that sending an ultimatum to China to stop work could backfire and hurt peace and stability in the region.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Australia wants claims against Indonesian judges probed

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia wants corruption allegations against Indonesian judges investigated before their death sentences against two Australian drug traffickers are carried out, the foreign minister said Monday. The Australians, Myuran Sukumaran, 33, and Andrew Chan, 31, are among 10 drug traffickers who were given 72-hour notices over the weekend that they will be executed by a firing squad. Indonesian authorities say that the Australians have exhausted all avenues of appeal. But Foreign Minister Julie Bishop argued the men should not be executed while they have an unresolved case before Indonesia's Constitutional Court and while Indonesia's Judicial Commission was investigating claims of corruption in the pair's original trial. According to Australia's Fairfax Media, Sukumaran and Chan's original Indonesian lawyer Muhammad Rifan says that the trial judges had originally asked for a 1 million rupiah (\$77,000) bribe to pass sentences of less than 20 years.

Officials say heavy rains kill 37 in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Heavy rains and strong winds tore through northwest Pakistan on Sunday, uprooting trees, collapsing buildings and killing at least 37 people, officials said. The storm also injured over 200 people, provincial Information Minister Mushtaq Ghani said. Winds reached up to 120 kph (75 mph), said Lutfur Rehman, a local disaster management official. "It was very unusual. It took people by surprise," Rehman said. Pakistan typically experiences such rains during its monsoon season in June and July. An emergency was declared at all local hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where Peshawar is the capital, Ghani said.

Kazakhstan's longtime leader secures crushing election win

ASTANA, Kazakhstan (AP)—Election officials in Kazakhstan say preliminary results of Sunday's nationwide polls show the long-ruling president confirming his incumbency with 97.7 percent of the vote. The Central Elections Commission said Monday that turnout reached a record 95 percent. A crushing victory for 74-year-old Nursultan Nazarbayev was widely expected from the moment the snap elections were announced. Nazarbayev faced only two nominal rivals, and state media have for years nurtured an increasingly extravagant cult of personality devoted to him.

World

Putin accuses US of supporting separatists in Russia

MOSCOW (AP)—In a new documentary, Russian President Vladimir Putin says intercepted calls showed that the U.S. helped separatists in Russia's North Caucasus in the 2000s, underscoring his suspicions of the West.

The two-hour documentary, which aired Sunday on the state-owned Rossiya-1 TV channel, is dedicated to Putin's 15 years in office. It focused on Putin's achievements as well as challenges to his rule—which the producers and Putin blame on Western interference.

Putin was elected Russian president on March 26, 2000, after spending three months as acting president, and was sworn in on May 7, 2000.

The documentary showed Putin interviewed at the Kremlin in the dimly-lit St. Alexander's Hall. Putin said in the interview that Russian intelligence agencies had "intercepted direct contacts" between

the separatists and U.S. intelligence officials in Azerbaijan during the early 2000s, proving that Washington was helping the insurgents.

He didn't specify when the calls took place.

Following a disastrous war in the 1990s, Russia fought Islamic insurgents in Chechnya and neighboring regions in the volatile North Caucasus.

"They were actually helping them, even with transportation," Putin said.

Putin said he raised the issue with then-U.S. President George W. Bush, who promised Putin to "kick the ass" of the intelligence officers in question. But in the end, Putin said the Russian intelligence agency FSB received a letter from their "American counterparts" who asserted their right to "support all opposition forces in Russia," including the Islamic separatists in the Caucasus.

Putin also expressed his fears that the West wishes Russia harm as he recalled how some world leaders told him they would not mind Russia's possible disintegration.

"My counterparts, a lot of presidents and prime ministers told me later on that they had decided for themselves by then that Russia would cease to exist in its current form," he said, referring to the time period around the second conflict in the Caucasus. "The only question was when it happens and what consequences would be."

The latest poll by the independent Levada agency showed that the approval rating for Putin, whose third term in office ends in 2018, was a whopping 86 percent in April.

Putin's interview has revealed the depth of his disappointment in the West.

The West, in Putin's words, is friendly to Russia only when

it is on its knees.

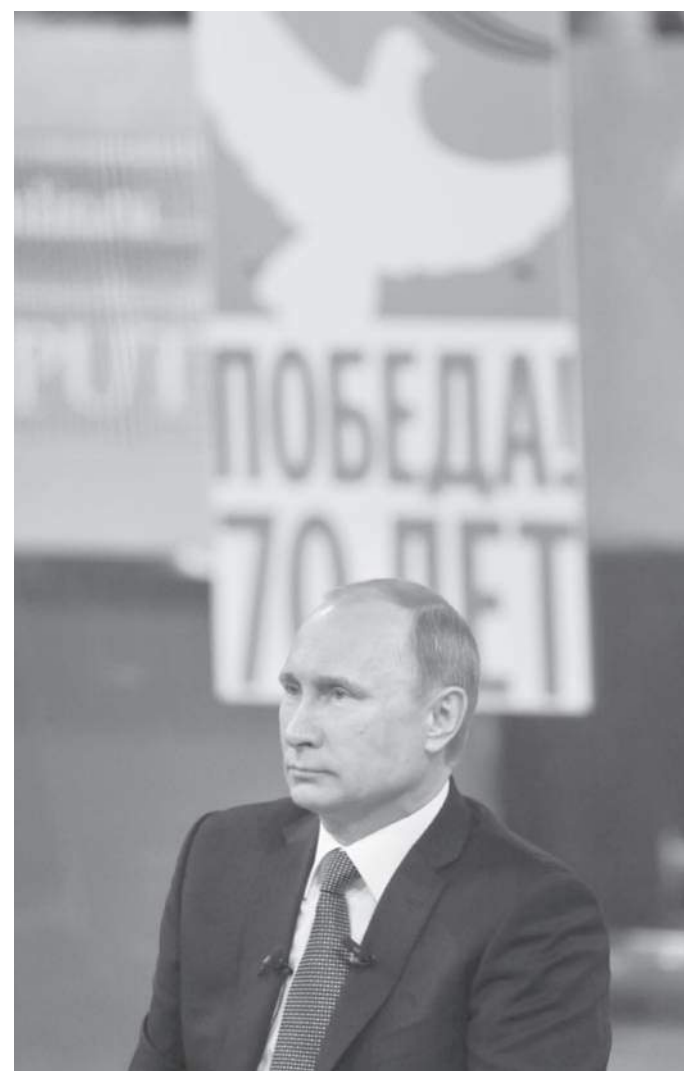
"The so-called ruling classes, political and economic elites like us only when we are wretched and poor and stand with a begging hand," he said.

Whenever Russia begins to grow economically and politically, the West, according to Putin, begins to punish it. Putin said that he does not view Western sanctions against Russia as a reaction to last year's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula, but rather "an attempt to hamper Russia's development."

"This is a policy we have been familiar with for centuries."

Putin defended the annexation of Crimea as a response to the will of the people, which restored "historic justice."

Putin, who hasn't announced whether he will run for presidency in 2018, insisted that he still hasn't lost touch with ordinary Russians and that he "may very well imagine a life beyond this position."



AP
Russian President Vladimir Putin listens during an annual call-in show on Russian television "Conversation With Vladimir Putin" in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, April 16, 2015.

Kerry to see Iranian FM as nuke talks hit end phase

NEW YORK (AP)—Secretary of State John Kerry and his Iranian counterpart will meet this week for the first time since they laid out the framework for a nuclear deal earlier this month.

The State Department said Kerry and Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif would meet Monday in New York where both men are participating in a conference at the United Nations on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

The meeting comes as nuclear negotiators try to complete a comprehensive agreement by the end of June.

The State Department said that in addition to his meeting with Zarif, Kerry will also see the foreign ministers of Egypt and Jordan at the U.N.

Iran nuclear negotiations

Representatives of the governments of Iran and the P5+1, consisting of the U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Russian and China, will resume talks this week over Iran's nuclear program.



In early April, Iran and world powers sealed a breakthrough agreement after months of negotiations outlining limits on Iran's nuclear program to keep it from being

able to produce atomic weapons. The Islamic Republic was promised an end to years of crippling economic sanctions, but only if negotiators transform the plan into a com-

prehensive pact.

Talks between Iran and world powers in recent days have been marked by tough talk from the Iranians about the lifting of sanctions and rejecting U.S. demands for thorough monitoring to make sure Iran meets its obligations. That has raised questions whether Iran is talking tough as a negotiating technique as deadlines approach.

Another uncertain factor in the talks has been Congress, which has been debating a bill that would allow it to review and potentially reject any Iran nuclear deal. Some lawmakers are contemplating suggested changes that could undermine President Barack Obama's grudging acceptance of that congressional measure.

Israel says airstrike on Syrian border targeted militants

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's military said Sunday it launched an airstrike on its border with Syria after spotting militants carrying a bomb in the Israeli-held Golan Heights.

The military said it carried out the strike after troops saw "a group of armed terrorists" approach the border with an explosive intended to target Israeli troops. It said that Israeli aircraft "targeted the squad, preventing the attack."

It did not offer any casualty figure for the strike. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said four Syrian soldiers were killed by a missile fired from Israeli-occupied territory in the Golan. Observatory director Rami Abdurrahman said it was not clear whether the missile was fired by a plane or

from a vehicle.

On Twitter, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent messages commending the soldiers involved in the strike.

"Any attempt to harm our soldiers and civilians will be met with a determined response like the military action tonight that thwarted a terror attack," Netanyahu said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility of the attack launched from inside Syria, which has been in the grips of a civil war since 2011. Syrian state media did not immediately report on the strike.

Israel has tried to stay out of the war in Syria, but it has spilled into the country before. In September, the Israeli military shot down a Syrian fighter jet in airspace over the Golan

Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and later annexed in a move that has never been internationally recognized. In August, Israel shot down a drone that came into the same airspace from Syria.

Israeli troops also have responded to occasional mortar fire from Syria. Israel says some of the attacks may have been accidental spillover, while others have been intentionally aimed at Israeli civilians and soldiers. It has always held Syria responsible for any cross-border fire.

Israel and Syria are bitter enemies. While relations are hostile, the ruling Assad family in Syria has kept the border area with Israel quiet for most of the past 40 years. Israel is concerned that the possible ouster of embattled

President Bashar Assad's ouster could push the country into the hands of Islamic State extremists or al-Qaida linked militants, or plunge the region further into sectarian warfare.

It also repeatedly has threatened to take military action to prevent Syria from transferring advanced weapons to its ally, Hezbollah. Israel is believed to have carried out several airstrikes in Syria in recent years that have targeted sophisticated weapons systems, including Russian-made anti-aircraft missiles and Iranian-made missiles.

There were reports in Arab media last week that Israel had carried out another attack on such weapons in Syria. Israeli officials have not commented.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mustafa Akinci elected leader of breakaway Turkish Cypriots

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Mustafa Akinci, a veteran politician with a strong track record of reaching out to rival Greek Cypriots, was elected Sunday as leader of the breakaway Turkish Cypriots in ethnically divided Cyprus, pledging to focus his energy on breaking decades of stalemate and achieving an accord reunifying the small island nation. Akinci handily defeated hard-line incumbent Dervis Eroglu with 60.5 percent of the vote, final official results showed. The turnout was just over 64 percent of about 177,000 registered voters. Akinci is seen as a moderate who can propel forward stalled reunification talks that are expected to resume next month. Akinci rode a wave of discontent with five years of rule by Eroglu, who failed to rally right-wing supporters. "We achieved change and my policy will be focused on reaching a peace settlement," Akinci told thousands of exuberant supporters at a victory rally. "This country cannot tolerate any more wasted time." Akinci said that he had already spoken to Greek Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades and both men agreed to meet soon.

Togo counts votes as president seeks third term

LOME, Togo (AP)—Officials in Togo on Sunday added up results from a presidential vote that had the lowest turnout of any election conducted in the past decade. President Faure Gnassingbe is seeking a third term against four opposition challengers. Gnassingbe has been in power since 2005 when he succeeded his father, who died after 38 years in office. The family has ruled this West African nation for nearly 50 years. The turnout for Saturday's vote was between 53 and 55 percent of the 3.5 million people registered, Taffa Tabiou, head of the election commission, said Sunday. That turnout is lower than presidential contests in 2005 and 2010 and legislative elections in 2007 and 2013. The commission has six days to announce the official results but Interior Minister Gilbert Bawara said at a press conference Sunday he hoped results would be announced before midnight. The government sent a plane to the northern town of Niamtougou to retrieve ballots from polling stations in the country's north and bring them to Lome, the capital, Bawara said.

Focus

No time to lose: Global response to Nepal quake gears up

By GREGORY KATZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—There is still time to save lives—that's why governments and aid agencies Sunday rushed doctors, volunteers and equipment to Nepal without waiting for the dust to settle.

U.N. spokeswoman Orla Fagan, who is heading to Nepal, said preventing the spread of disease is one of the most important tasks facing aid workers who are arriving.

"There are 14 international medical teams on the way and either 14 or 15 international search-and-rescue teams on the way," she said. "They need to get in as soon as possible. They will use military aircraft to get them into Nepal."

Diarrhea was already a growing problem and a measles outbreak was feared, with vaccines in short supply, the U.N. warned in a report.

Substantial logistical hurdles remain, but there were hopeful signs as Kathmandu's international airport reopened after Saturday's crushing earthquake, though there were still delays as aftershocks continued. Some aid vehicles were able to travel overland from India to the stricken Nepalese city of Pokhara.

"That means supplies could potentially come in overland from India. That is a positive sign," said Ben Pickering, Save the Children's humanitarian adviser in Britain. "The airport opening is a small miracle."

He cautioned that chaotic conditions may create a bottleneck at the airport as governments and aid agencies try to bring in personnel and supplies in the coming days.

The need is great: UNICEF said Sunday that nearly 1 million children in areas affected by the earthquake are in "urgent need" of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF staff reported dwindling water supplies, power shortages and communications breakdowns.

Celebrities like singer Shakira sent tweets appealing for help for UNICEF. The mobile payment company Square created a "cashtag" to donate: cash.me/\$unicef. PayPal announced it was waiving fees for donations to several aid organizations.

Information was still lacking about conditions at the earthquake's epicenter, Pickering said.

"Going forward it's about access to the epicenter, and helicopters are the key, but it's not clear whether they can be sourced and whether the high altitude is a problem," he said, adding that Save the Children has emergency kits pre-positioned in three warehouses in Nepal and plans to distribute



People gather on an open space for security reasons at Basantapur Durbar Square, damaged in Saturday's earthquake, in Kathmandu, Nepal, Sunday, April 26, 2015.

bedding, buckets and other basic supplies to 2,000 families as quickly as possible.

Other charities face similar roadblocks.

International Search and Rescue Germany said a team of 52 relief workers including doctors, experts trained in searching for people buried under rubble and

several dog squads are flying Sunday. The team will bring a mobile medical treatment center.

Spokesman Stefan Heine said the priority was to get to the scene of the quake as quickly as possible to find those still alive.

They will be supported by numerous governments that have announced plans to send aid

worth millions of dollars.

The Pentagon said a U.S. military plane departed Sunday morning for Nepal carrying 70 personnel, including a U.S. Agency for International Development disaster assistance response team, an urban search and rescue team from Fairfax, Virginia, and 45 tons of cargo.

California was also sending a team of 57 urban search and rescue workers.

The United Arab Emirates deployed an 88-member search-and-rescue team to Nepal Sunday, and the Emirates Red Crescent also sent a team.

The Israeli military said it is sending a 260-member mission

to Nepal to provide immediate search-and-rescue help and medical aid.

"An advanced multi-department medical facility, equipped with approximately 95 tons of humanitarian and medical supplies from Israel and a medical staff of 122 doctors, nurses and paramedics, will be rapidly established in the city of Kathmandu to provide medical care for disaster casualties," the Israeli military said.

European nations deployed as well: France said it would send 11 rescuers on Sunday; Britain announced that an advance team of eight had been sent and that a 5 million pound (\$7.6 million) aid package would be available under a rapid response plan; Italy deployed a team of experts from its Civil Protection Department as well as its foreign crisis team; and the Swiss Foreign Ministry said a team of experts including a doctor, a building surveyor and water quality technician had left for Nepal on Sunday.

Poland is sending a rescue team to Nepal of 81 firefighters, together with heavy equipment and several dogs, as well several medics. The medics are expected in Nepal on Monday morning. The firefighters were delayed by aftershocks and confusion at Kathmandu's airport, said Pawel Frateczak, spokesman for firefighters. He said they are now due to arrive Monday afternoon.

Canada sent an advance unit from its urban disaster search and rescue team, along with medical personnel and humanitarian relief supplies.

Volunteers from various British charities gathered at London's Heathrow Airport getting ready for overnight flights to the Nepal region.

Gary Francis, leader of the Search and Rescue Assistance in Disasters group, said the organization was bringing in enough tents, food and water to operate self-sufficiently for 15 days.

They were bring in "a vast array" of equipment including sound and vibration detectors, seismic listening devices, and cutting equipment, with an eye toward finding survivors.

"Once we are there we've got the ability to carry out a co-ordination role or urban search and rescue looking for survivors trapped in collapsed buildings," he said.

U.N. humanitarian chief Valerie Amos said in a statement Sunday evening that the full picture of destruction and suffering would only appear worse "as humanitarian workers reach the more remote areas near the epicenter of the earthquake." She said "entire areas have been flattened" and that time is of the essence in search and rescue efforts.

Quake agony revealed quietly on trip from Nepal airport

By TODD PITMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Soon after landing at Kathmandu airport, the Thai Airways captain made a bizarre announcement to passengers: Nobody is in the control tower.

That meant we could taxi no farther, and we were trapped on the tarmac. It took the pilot another half-hour to explain that air-traffic controller had left the tower because there had been an aftershock, one of several that has struck fear into this mountainous nation since Saturday's massive tremor killed more than 2,500 people.

Those moments and many others in my first hours in Nepal's capital revealed that while much of Kathmandu appears to have been spared physical damage from the earthquake, other signs of trauma are everywhere.

We waited while airport officials inspected the tarmac for damage and cracks. In the back of the plane, an argument broke

out. A Thai Airways staffer was telling a Chinese businessman to get off his cellphone.

"I will not!" shouted Jun Sun. "I'm speaking to my family. This is important."

"I need to know they are OK now. I need to know my wife and daughter are OK."

Sun, who works in the telecommunications industry, said he was returning from a conference in Bangkok. He tried to call his wife to find out how she and his 10-month-old daughter were, but could not get through because the network was so congested.

He spoke to her "for a few seconds" on the Chinese social media service WeChat—it was just enough to know they were alive.

On Sunday he was able to really talk to them for the first time.

"They slept out in the open last night. I'm going to get them out of here," he said. "It's not safe yet. Something worse may yet happen."

He pulled out his cellphone

and showed several images of destroyed homes in Kathmandu that colleagues had sent.

"This is what we are worried about," he said, pointing to a picture of a huge crack running up the side of the multi-story apartment building he lives in.

When our jet finally got the green light to move forward, well over an hour later, it taxied past a large Indian military cargo plane. Soldiers stood on the tarmac, unloading supplies and trolleys filled with fuel—which Kathmandu residents say is running precariously low.

On the walk into the airport, we could see hundreds of people, mostly tourists, crowded behind the glass walls of a terminal building, clearly hoping for a flight out. One man's face was covered with large bandages.

Elsewhere, foreign rescue teams could be seen sitting in groups, planning missions into the city.

Flights also resumed—we saw a gray cargo plane hurtling above.

After customs, it was clear

nothing was normal. The hotel reservations center was empty. The Yeti Money Exchange was empty.

And in the parking lot outside the arrivals hall, no taxis waited. Instead, thousands of scared and frustrated Indian nationals stood in huge lines, hoping to get on evacuation flights their government was organizing.

Tempers frayed as the wait dragged on.

Ghan Shyam Son said he and his family had been on a four-day trip as tourists and were supposed to leave Saturday.

"But our flight was canceled. We spent last night sleeping outside, in the open. We're trying to leave here, we're so afraid."

Pooja Bhandari, standing beside him, was blunt: "No water. No light. I am hungry. No drinking water. No sleeping well. Very disturbed," she said.

Another Indian national who had come to Nepal as a tourist sat forlornly on the curb. Two of her friends were missing, she said.

Overdrive

2015 VW Golf SportWagen

stands alone among crowd of SUVs

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

There's something to be said for being the only game in town. The 2015 Volkswagen Golf SportWagen TSI SE (I give it three out of four stars) is a case in point. It could easily be better, but if you want a compact station wagon it's just about the only one you can buy in the U.S.

Wagons once crowded U.S. roads like buffalo on the plains, but the herd got thinned out. Minivans and SUVs came to dominate because of their toddler-friendly sliding doors and the field of view provided by their high seating positions. The selection of wagons dwindled to a few European luxury models and Subaru's ever-more-SUV-like all-wheel-drive Outlander.

VW stepped into the gap with a station wagon version of its Jetta compact sedan. It became the best-selling version of the Jetta in the U.S. It gained fanatically loyal owners, particularly when fitted with VW's excellent diesel engine.

Thanks largely to the wagon, the U.S. became one of the few places on earth where the Jetta outsold VW's Golf hatchback.

That drove VW brass at HQ in Wolfsburg, Germany, nuts. The Golf is VW's hallmark vehicle around the world. The Golf launched an empire that's on the threshold of becoming the world's largest automaker.

VW discontinued the Jetta wagon this year, replacing it with a Golf-badged model.

The 2015 Golf SportWagen uses VW's new MQB architecture. Compared to the 2014 Jetta wagon, it has a better base engine, more room, weighs less and gets better fuel economy. The 2015 SportWagen's wheelbase is 0.3 inch shorter than the Golf hatchback, but the wagon is a full foot longer.

Prices for the front-drive Golf SportWagen start at \$21,395 with a 170-horsepower 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine and five-speed manual transmission. A six-speed automatic transmission raises the starting point to \$22,495. A fuel-efficient 150-horsepower 2.0-liter four-cylinder diesel in the TDI model starts at \$27,995 with a six-speed manual and \$29,095 mated to a six-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission.

I tested a gasoline-powered SportWagen TSI SE that stickered at \$28,685. It had a rear-view camera, ultrasonic parking assist, Fender audio, air conditioning, a touch screen, Bluetooth audio and telephone compatibility, voice recognition and more. All prices exclude destination charges.

The Golf SportWagen competes chiefly with compact sedans and hatchbacks like the Chevrolet



AP
The 2015 Volkswagen Golf SportWagen is one of the only compact station wagons around.

NUTS & BOLTS

2015 Volkswagen Golf SportWagen TSI SE

- Price as tested: \$28,675 (excluding destination charge)
- Rating: Three out of four stars
- Reasons to buy: Where else are you going to find a compact wagon? Cargo space, ride, handling
- Shortcomings: No USB port or blind spot alert, interior storage, price
- Competitive EPA fuel economy rating: 25 mpg city/35 highway/29 combined. Regular gasoline.
- Engine: 1.8-liter turbocharged 16-valve four-cylinder
- Power: 170 horsepower at 4,500 rpm; 199 pound-feet of torque at 1,600 rpm
- Transmission: Six-speed automatic
- Wheelbase: 103.5 inches
- Length: 179.5 inches
- Width: 70.8 inches

- Height: 58.3 inches
- Curb weight: 3,120 pounds
- Where assembled: Puebla, Mexico
- Standard equipment: Anti-lock brakes; stability control; brake assist; front seat side air bags; curtain air bags; touch screen; AM/FM radio; rear-view camera; Fender audio; Bluetooth phone and audio compatible; adapter for music players; cruise control; push-button start; power windows, mirror and locks; leatherette seating surfaces; 17-inch alloy wheels; daytime running lights; automatic headlights; front fog lights; rain-sensing windshield wipers; air conditioning; heated front seats; steering wheel shift paddles; manual tilt and telescoping steering column.
- Options: Driver assistance package; lighting package.

Cruze, Dodge Dart, Ford Focus, Honda Civic, Hyundai Elantra, Nissan Sentra and Toyota Corolla. The Golf wagon's prices tend to be slightly higher.

The VW lacks some features the competitors offer. My car did not have a USB port or blind spot alert. USBs are virtually omnipresent in new cars, but VW requires you to get an adapter—maybe two, if your family includes an iPod Classic and an iPhone 6 or an iPhone and an Android or Windows phone.

The interior is comfortable. The seats were covered in artificial leatherette. The dash, doors and armrests get padded covers. The black-and-grey color scheme in my car was relieved slightly by matte dials and trim.

The front seat has plenty of passenger space, but could use

more storage for glasses, cups, iPods, phones and the like. Rear headroom is good. The storage space behind the fold-flat rear seats doubles the capacity of competing compact sedans.

The Golf SportWagen exterior is understated, with a smooth shape and few flourishes.

VW's 1.8-liter turbo four-cylinder engine provides ample power and good fuel economy. The Environmental Protection Agency rates automatic-transmission gasoline-burning wagons at 25 mpg in the city, 35 on the highway and 29 combined. That trails leading sedans, but the wagon's carrying capacity compensates for a slightly higher fuel bill. The TDI diesel scored EPA ratings of 31 mpg city, 43 highway and 35 combined. At current prices, it

would take about 21 years for the higher mileage pay for the TDI's higher price.

The SportWagen is quiet on the highway. The steering is quick, with good on-center feel.

The suspension absorbed the bumps from broken pavement well, and kept the wagon securely planted on twisty roads.

It's an enjoyable little car that also happens to be practical.

The price and features could be more competitive, but what else are you going to buy if you want a compact station wagon? The Golf SportWagen is the only game in town.

UNDER THE HOOD

Pro scanner diagnoses in depth

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I see you recommend using a professional scanner to see what's wrong with a car. Can you explain the difference between these and the one I've bought at the auto parts store?—Zach Perry

A: Practically the entire car is now connected in a network that can be accessed using a scan tool. These tools have become an essential part of diagnosing engine, transmission, brake, air conditioning, lighting, accessory systems, just to name a few.

The inexpensive tool you purchased is likely an OBD-II generic scan tool. These are capable of obtaining and clearing emissions related diagnostic trouble codes (generic and manufacturer specified), checking system readiness (completion of onboard diagnostic tests for various systems—important for emissions certification), and viewing a freeze frame (data captured when a code sets). Some tools may indicate diagnostic trouble code definitions and other helpful features. OBD-II generic data is very limited in scope and only scratches the surface of the diverse systems and components used by ve-

hicle manufacturers under the hood and elsewhere. Some higher-end generic scan tools also provide ABS capability for certain vehicle makes and additional OBD-II features such as Mode 6 (noncontinuous monitor test results). Mode 6 is helpful with intermittent problems, as one can check to see how close a system or component came to passing or failing a test.

A professional grade (aftermarket) or manufacturer-specific scan tool goes far beyond the OBD-II system, allowing access to the manufacturer's in-depth information, tests, and calibration functions for engine systems such as variable valve timing, electronic throttle control, and intake manifold tuning, turbocharger systems. These systems can vary by manufacturer, so specific access is needed. Examples of capabilities beyond simply looking at data includes performing an evaporative system leak check, a crank sensor angle learn procedure, running a cylinder balance test, and commanding the camshaft actuator to verify phasing accuracy.

A top-notch aftermarket or manufacturer-specific scan tool also allows access to transmission and all-wheel-drive systems, braking, stability

control, traction control, and other under-car systems. Also, body electronics such as lighting, instrumentation, climate control, SRS (air bags), communication and navigation systems are typically accessed, diagnosed, and verified using a scan tool. Examples include performing a radar aiming procedure related to the adaptive cruise control or collision mitigation system, initiating a new ignition key to the immobilizer system, ABS system bleeding, initiating a new tire pressure monitoring sensor, checking for a correct passenger side window switch input, controlling the defroster mode door to fully open, and sweeping the instrument panel gauges up to 50, and then 100 percent. Being able to see if incoming switch requests are successful and performing output commands rules out a lot of unnecessary disassembly and testing, as one can quickly determine if the fault may be caused by a switch, the network, or actuator.

An OBD-II generic scan tool is a great addition to anyone's toolbox.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood(at)earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Correspondents' dinner mixes big names in media, politics

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two secretaries of state, Tea Leoni and Madeleine Albright, arrived arm in arm as a wide mix of Hollywood and Washington players gathered for the national “Nerd Prom.”

The White House Correspondents' Association dinner has become a celebrity magnet, this year drawing some big names from television, sports and movies to rub shoulders with members of Congress and to hear the president speak. It has grown to become one of Washington's biggest events since its smaller origins in 1914 when journalists gathered to push for greater access to the president.

Leoni, who plays the nation's chief diplomat on TV's “Madam Secretary,” was part of an entourage Saturday evening with Albright, the first female secretary of state. The two joked that they trade notes on acting. They arrived with CBS' Bob Schieffer and Leoni's TV husband, Tim Daly. But Daly claimed Albright as his own.

“She's my White House Correspondents' Dinner girlfriend,” he said. “We met here, and we sat together one year, and now she's officially my date, so I'm a lucky guy.”

The wide array of celebrity guests included actors from other popular political dramas as well, including Kerry Washington and Darby Stanchfield from ABC's “Scandal.” The mix of politicians, the media and Hollywood celebrities was surreal, Stanchfield said.

“I've been taking notes, actually,” she said.



Actor Bradley Cooper mingles during the White House Correspondents' Association dinner at the Washington Hilton on Saturday, April 25, 2015, in Washington.

Alfre Woodard, who plays the president on NBC's “State of Affairs,” said she enjoys hearing President Barack Obama's humor because “with him, it comes out of nowhere and it's very dry, and he does have a wicked sense of humor.”

Much of ABC's “Modern Family” cast also joined the party, along with would-be presidential candidate and real-

ity TV star Donald Trump.

Recent news was also the talk of the red carpet, including the TV special where Olympic athlete Bruce Jenner revealed on national television that he identifies as a woman.

Laverne Cox, a transgender actress known for her role on “Orange is the New Black” said viewers who saw Jenner's story saw “a beautiful human being

who cares deeply about their family, whose a parent and at 65 can no longer live a lie. “I think that's someone everyone can relate to,” Cox said. “Stepping and living into our truths is something all of us must do.”

Politics was also on the mind for attendees as another presidential election approaches. Jane Fonda said she thinks it will be a tough campaign but

that Hillary Clinton is strong, “and she can take it.”

Newswoman Katie Couric said she warned her husband the dinner would be a crazy mob scene “full of a lot of great people, a lot of self-important people, some celebrities, and it's fun.”

Gayle King of CBS This Morning said she doesn't understand why people call this the “nerd prom,” though.

“I'm thinking ‘where are the nerds?’” she said. “These are people who are at the top of their game who really enjoy meeting other people. It's great.”

Olympians Tara Lipinski and Johnny Weir, who have become popular commentators for NBC's Olympic coverage, joined the peacock network for the Washington event for the first time and walked carefully on the red carpet. Lipinski said she was honored to attend, and Weir said the entire spectacle was “pretty amazing.”

“We're just so excited to be here to celebrate being one with our media brothers and sisters and really celebrating the spirit of the night and the spirit of what we all do in entertaining and educating the world,” Weir said.

The dinner also drew attention on social media, though some pointed out news networks were ignoring protests that turned violent just 40 miles north in Baltimore where a man died in police custody.

The featured performer for the night was Cecily Strong from “Saturday Night Live.” She poked fun at many media organizations in the room, but when it came to NBC's Brian Williams, she stopped short and said she had “nothing—because I work for NBC.”

When he finally took the stage, Obama joked it was the night when “Washington celebrates itself. Somebody's got to do it.”

Later, Obama brought out comedian Keegan-Michael Key as his “anger translator” to wonder aloud why he had to be there at all.

Obama turns 2016 hopefuls into comic fodder for media dinner

WASHINGTON (AP)—A presidential election just getting into gear provided President Barack Obama plenty of new material to work with on the night he describes as Washington celebrating itself.

“It's amazing how time flies,” Obama told those attending the annual dinner of the White House Correspondents' Association on Saturday night. “Soon, the first presidential contest will take place, and I for one cannot wait to see who the Koch brothers pick. It's exciting.”

Obama added: “Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Jeb Bush, Scott Walker ... who will finally get that red rose?”

On the Democratic side, Obama observed that Hillary Rodham Clinton kicked things off by going unrecognized to Chipotle. Meanwhile, he said, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley went completely unrecognized at an O'Malley campaign event.

Taking a playful poke at him-

self and at Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is considering a bid, Obama said: “Apparently, some folks want to see a pot-smoking socialist in the White House. We could get a third Obama term after all.”

The dinner also gave the president an opportunity to rib some of his loudest critics.

“Just this week Michele Bachmann actually predicted that I would bring about the biblical end of days. Now, that's a legacy,” he said. “That's big. I mean, Lincoln, Washington, they didn't do that.”

The correspondents' dinner brings in some big names from Hollywood. Some of the cast members from the TV series “Black-ish” attended, and Obama said he had to give ABC fair warning about the show. “Being black-ish only makes you popular for so long,” he said. “Trust me, there's a shelf life to that thing.”

Of course, he had to give a shout-out to his health care law.



President Barack Obama, left, brings out actor Keegan-Michael Key from Key & Peele to play the part of “Luther, President Obama's anger translator” during his remarks at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner at the Washington Hilton on Saturday, April 25, 2015, in Washington.

“Today, thanks to Obamacare, you no longer have to worry about losing your insurance, if you lose your job,” he said. “You're welcome, Senate Democrats.”

The featured entertainer of

the night, Cecily Strong from “Saturday Night Live,” got some big laughs with some tough subjects. For example, she observed that the Secret Service is the one law enforcement agency that could get in

trouble if a black man gets shot.

“Your hair is so white now,” she told the president, “it can talk back to police.”

And she had the journalists repeat after her and solemnly swear they will not talk about Hillary Rodham Clinton's appearance “because that is not journalism.”

The mix of Washington journalists and Hollywood stars—showcased live on C-SPAN, the political nerd's favorite cable channel—delivered hours of interesting images for hardy viewers. (Yes, that was Oscar-winner Jane Fonda on the arm of CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer.)

Few of the politicians who may want to succeed Obama showed up for the dinner. One on hand was Donald Trump, who again has been teasing Republicans about running for national office.

Most of the prospective and declared Republican candidates stayed away. Many chose to meet potential supporters

and donors at conservative gatherings in Las Vegas and Des Moines, Iowa.

The dinner helps fund scholarships and awards that recognize journalists. This year's award winners include:

■ Josh Lederman of The Associated Press and Jim Avila of ABC News, the Merriman Smith Award for presidential coverage under deadline pressure.

■ Peter Baker of The New York Times, the Aldo Beckman Award for repeated excellence in White House coverage.

■ The Edgar A. Poe Award, recognizing coverage of news of national or regional significance, to The Washington Post's Carol A. Leonnig and The Wall Street Journal team of Gary Fields, John R. Emshwiller, Rob Barry and Coulter Jones.

Scott Horsley of National Public Radio received a special mention in the Beckman Award category for his coverage of White House policies and politics.

Lauer, DeGeneres team for racy Daytime Emmys opening

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Matt Lauer and Ellen DeGeneres helped the Daytime Emmys make a gender-bending return to television with a comedy bit involving pasties and black stockings—and not worn by DeGeneres.

The ceremony Sunday opened with a pretaped segment in which the pair agreed to end their faux feud. The punchline: DeGeneres had sneakily edited it to put Lauer's head atop a man's chiseled body clad only in tasseled pasties, briefs and lace-topped stockings.

The "Today" host, or his shimmying facsimile, agreed to donate a thousand dollars to an unspecified charity each time he was thanked by winners during the ceremony.

"CBS Sunday Morning" host Charles Osgood, whose show was honored as best morning program, offered a heartfelt shoutout to Lauer.

"Thank you for doing what you did because, God knows, I



AP
Betty White accepts the lifetime achievement award at the 42nd annual Daytime Emmy Awards at Warner Bros. Studios on Sunday, April 26, 2015, in Burbank, Calif.

for his role as Sonny in "Days of Our Lives." His character and that of Will (played by Guy Wilson) were part of daytime TV's first gay wedding with two men.

Smith paid tribute to "the LGBT community for showing strength and courage. You're an inspiration to all of us."

The ceremony featured the reunion of Anthony Geary and Genie Francis, the former "General Hospital" couple of Luke and Laura, who presented the trophy for best drama series, a tie, to "Days of Our Lives" and "The Young and the Restless."

Geary was a winner as well, accepting his eighth Emmy for his "General Hospital" role. Maura West of "General Hospital" was named best lead drama actress.

Other winners included Amelia Heinle, best supporting actress in a drama series for "The Young and the Beautiful," and Chad Duell, best supporting actor for "General Hospital."

"Un Nuevo Dia" received the award for best Spanish-language morning program.

An in memoriam tribute was introduced by Melissa Rivers, who said her mother's career was reinvigorated by a daytime talk show after her late-night show was canceled. "The Joan Rivers Show" won a Daytime Emmy in 1990, the only Emmy her mother ever got, Melissa Rivers noted.

Liotta recalls Scorsese discussion before 'Goodfellas' shoot

NEW YORK (AP)—The Tribeca Film Festival ended Saturday night with a bang—a special 25th anniversary screening of the Martin Scorsese gangster flick "Goodfellas."

On the red carpet, star Ray Liotta recalled something Scorsese told him before filming began that made him believe he was going to be part of something special.

"He said, 'I want to shoot this like a gangster,'" Liotta told The Associated Press. "'If I want to freeze frame, if I want to voice over, if I want to whatever ...'. And that's what he did. It gave him a lot liberty to just be him."

That mindset paid off. Many regard the Oscar-nominated

mob tale as more than just a great film of the genre, but also one of the greatest movies of all time. Scorsese used a compelling narrative with strong visuals married by a powerful rock soundtrack to reinvent the gangster film.

"I don't know if he reinvented it as much as he just created his own version of it," Liotta said.

Paul Sorvino, who portrayed Paulie, the mob capo that takes Liotta's Henry under his wing, thinks Scorsese went beyond reinventing the genre.

"It's not even part of a genre; it's like tearing off that wall and taking a look inside to see what it really is," Sorvino said of the gritty depiction of

life as a low-level mobster.

The 76-year old actor expressed gratitude to have a part in the film.

"It's part of the iconography of American film," Sorvino said. "It's one of the three or four greatest movies ever made, and if you get to do that in your career, you're pretty lucky."

Based on the nonfiction best-seller "Wiseguy" written by Nicholas Pileggi, the story traces the life of Henry Hill—a mobster-turned-informant—from his childhood and life of petty crime to rise and fall in the underworld. The film also stars Robert De Niro as James "Jimmy The Gent" Conway.

De Niro is one of the film festival's co-creators.

"The fact that he helped put it together right after 9/11 and bring Tribeca back as well as New York—that was just honorable in itself. And to sustain it for so long now, it represents a great thing in movies, that's great for movies, and a great thing for the city," Liotta said.

De Niro, Jane Rosenthal and Craig Hatkoff founded the Tribeca Film Festival in 2002 as a means of stimulating the lower Manhattan neighborhood after the Sep. 11 attacks.

But Lorraine Bracco, who played Henry's wife, Karen, thinks the festival did more than revitalize the city.

"It's for the world to see that we're still standing strong," Bracco said.

Scorsese couldn't make the screening because he was out of the country, but he recorded a message introducing the film to the audience at the Beacon Theatre. After the screening, outgoing "Daily Show" host Jon Stewart moderated a panel discussion with the cast.

don't want to do that," said the 82-year-old Osgood.

The ceremony took a dignified turn when Betty White was honored with a lifetime achievement award.

"Hello, beautiful," she said to her trophy. "When I started in 1949 I had no idea that I'd still be around at this point, for one thing, or that I'd still be privileged enough to still be in this business. And it is such a privilege."

Tyra Banks hosted the ceremony that aired on the Pop cable channel. The Daytime Emmys, which once had a secure home on the broadcast networks, settled for streaming online last

year after a two-year turn on the cable news channel HLN.

The change in fortune reflected the dwindling daytime audience and programming shifts, but that didn't diminish the winners' enthusiasm.

A beaming Craig Ferguson, replaced by James Corden as host of CBS' "The Late Late Show," accepted the trophy for best game show host for "Celebrity Name Game."

"I never win anything. This is fantastic," Ferguson said, adding, "Thank you, Hollywood, for a job."

Freddie Smith was honored as best younger actor in a drama

'Furious 7' holds on to box office; 'Age of Ultron' looms

NEW YORK (AP)—"Furious 7" enjoyed a victory lap over the weekend, becoming only the third film ever to make \$1 billion internationally and leading the domestic box office for the fourth straight week. But the movie that's poised to topple the Universal juggernaut, Marvel's "The Avengers: Age of Ultron," revved up overseas with a massive \$201.2 million debut.

In North American theaters, "Furious 7" had enough left in the tank to top all films with an estimated \$18.3 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. While the film has been a huge domestic hit, it's been even bigger abroad—particularly in China, where it's set a record with \$323 million.

"Furious 7," a film whose fate was once in doubt after the death of star Paul Walker midway through shooting, has now made \$1.3 billion globally. Only two other films, both by James Cameron—"Avatar" and "Titanic"—have made more money internationally than "Furious 7."

"Furious 7" has had little competition to challenge it throughout April. This weekend, the only new wide release was the

Blake Lively fantasy romance "The Age of Adaline." The Lionsgate and Lakeshore Entertainment release came in third with \$13.4 million. The Sony comedy "Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2" held up stronger than expected to take second place with \$15.5 million in its second week.

But the reign of "Furious 7" is effectively over now that the highly anticipated "Avengers" sequel is on the way. Though it doesn't open in North America until Thursday night, it debuted in 44 countries and territories this weekend. That represents about half of its international rollout.

Disney said the film is exceeding the pace of 2012's "The Avengers" by 44 percent in the places it has opened. Joss

Whedon's first installment of the superhero team-up franchise, starring Robert Downey Jr., Mark Ruffalo, Scarlett Johansson and many others, made \$1.5 billion worldwide, good for third all-time.

With two enormous blockbusters covering much of the globe, the summer movie season is ready to officially begin next weekend. In the meantime, a few smaller films carved out more limited releases.

Russell Crowe's directorial debut, "The Water Diviner," opened in 320 locations with \$1.3 million. The critically acclaimed indie science-fiction drama "Ex Machina" expanded to 1,255 screens in its second week of release and earned \$5.4 million.



AP
Robert De Niro, left, and Grace Hightower, right, attend a Tribeca Film Festival closing night special screening of "Goodfellas" at the Beacon Theater on Saturday, April 25, 2015, in New York.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. "Furious 7," \$18.3 million (\$69.7 million international). | 5. "Unfriended," \$6.2 million. |
| 2. "Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2," \$15.5 million (\$5.3 million international). | 6. "Ex Machina," \$5.4 million (\$500,000 international). |
| 3. "The Age of Adaline," \$13.4 million (\$1.3 million international). | 7. "The Longest Ride," \$4.4 million (\$1.1 million international). |
| 4. "Home," \$8.3 million (\$13.7 million international). | 8. "Get Hard," \$3.9 million. |
| | 9. "Monkey Kingdom," \$3.5 million. |
| | 10. "Woman in Gold," \$3.5 million. |

Winehouse family criticizes 'misleading' movie about singer



AP
In this Sept. 11, 2013 file photo, former Olympic athlete Bruce Jenner arrives at the Annual Charity Day hosted by Cantor Fitzgerald and BGC Partners, in New York.

Nearly 17 million watch Bruce Jenner interview

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Olympian Bruce Jenner reached an audience of just under 17 million people for his declaration in an ABC News interview that he identifies as a woman.

The Nielsen company said Saturday 16.9 million viewers watched the interview on ABC's "20/20" newscast Friday night.

The audience was the biggest for a non-sports show on a Friday night since 2003, which would exclude Olympics broadcasts. Friday is generally a light night for television viewing because so many people have plans outside the house.

It was also the biggest audience for ABC's "20/20" newscast on a Friday night in 15 years. Nielsen said viewership peaked just after 10 p.m. with 17.2 million viewers.

Nielsen Social also estimated that there were 972,000 tweets sent Friday night about the Jenner interview.

LONDON (AP)—The family of Amy Winehouse has criticized a documentary about the late singer that is due to have its premiere at next month's Cannes Film Festival.

A statement issued Sunday by family spokesman Chris Goodman said director Asif Kapadia's "Amy" is "misleading and contains some basic untruths."

The statement said the film suggested family members did too little to help the singer, who died in July 2011 at age 27 of accidental alcohol poisoning. The soul diva, whose 2006 album "Back to Black" won five Grammy Awards, had battled drug and alcohol abuse for years.

The family statement said the movie did not reflect the "huge

effort from all concerned to help Amy at all stages."

"Fundamentally, the Winehouse family believes that the film does a disservice to individuals and families suffering from the complicated affliction of addiction," it said.

The filmmakers said in a statement that they began work with "total objectivity" and the

support of the Winehouse family. They said the documentary was the result of interviews with about 100 people who knew the singer, including "friends, family, former partners and members of the music industry that worked with her."

Kapadia won wide acclaim with "Senna," a documentary about the late motor racing



Winehouse

Cannes festival.

champion Ayrton Senna.

"Amy" is due to screen out of competition at the May 13 - 24

Salma Hayek visits Lebanon to launch film 'The Prophet'

BCHARRE, Lebanon (AP)—Salma Hayek is in Lebanon, her first visit to her ancestral homeland, to launch "The Prophet," an animated feature film she co-produced.

Hayek visited the picturesque mountain village of Bcharre in northern Lebanon on Sunday to pay homage to Khalil Gibran, the Lebanese-born poet who wrote "The Prophet," the book on which the film is based.

"Let us have a private moment in this place that we dreamt so long to be a part of," Hayek said before entering the Gibran Museum.

"The Prophet," written in 1923, has inspired generations of artists. The book, a series of poems about love, joy, sorrow, work and spirituality, has been translated into at least 40 languages.

Gibran also was a sculptor and a painter influenced by the English Romantics. He migrated to the United States in the late 1890s, dying there in 1931.



AP
Mexican and American actress Salma Hayek sits in front of the statue of Lebanese-American poet Khalil Gibran during her visit to his museum in the northeast mountain town of Bcharre, Lebanon, Sunday, April 26, 2015.

Hayek posed with one of Gibran's towering sculptures outside the museum and dipped her feet in nearby mountain spring waters before visiting his tomb

and viewing his work.

"The Prophet" director Roger Allers, who also directed Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Lion King,"

accompanied Hayek.

"I have been living with the spirit of Gibran for the last three years and it has been a very intimate experience and now to

come to his home is very moving," Allers said.

The film tells the story of a friendship between a young girl and an imprisoned poet. Quoting from Gibran's book, Allers said: "'Work is love made visible.' And I really feel that about this movie."

The film premieres April 30 in Lebanon. Distributor Mohammed Fadallah said it will be showing in 20 theaters here before going to the Gulf region and North Africa.

Hayek arrived Friday in Lebanon. The Mexican-American actress' paternal grandfather was Lebanese and immigrated to Mexico.

A poster outside the museum bearing one of Gibran's poems also welcomed her: "The children of my Lebanon, those who migrate with nothing but courage in their hearts and strength in their arms but who return with wealth in their hands and a wreath of glory upon their heads."

Judge: Attending Pink concert didn't harm New Jersey girl

TOMS RIVER, N.J. (AP)—A mom's decision to take her 11-year-old daughter to a Pink concert has a judge saying, "So What?"

The New Jersey judge says the concert trip isn't evidence of bad parenting.

NJ.com reports the girl's parents are divorced, and her father accused his ex-wife of abusing her parental discretion by taking

their daughter to the December 2013 concert at the Prudential Center in Newark.

But state Superior Court Judge Lawrence Jones rejected the complaint in a 37-page decision that contained a brief history of rock 'n' roll and a commentary on the increasing use of judges as referees for warring divorced parents.

Jones said Pink—whose song

"So What" was named No. 29 on Rolling Stone's list of the 100 best songs of 2008—may have some suggestive moves and lyrics, but she's an artist whose works aren't necessarily inappropriate for preteens.

Jones noted in his decision that he spoke privately with the girl, who is now 12, and took into consideration the mother's reasoning for allowing her

daughter to attend the show.

He found that the mother "in no way, shape or form exceeded the boundaries of reasonable parental judgment" in taking the girl to the show during her own parenting time. He also found that she didn't subject the child to any unreasonable risk of harm, or compromise the girl's health, safety or welfare.

"To the contrary, when all

the smoke from the custody litigation clears, it will be self-evident that all which happened here is that a young girl went to her first rock concert with her mother and had a really great time," the judge wrote in his decision, which quoted the lyrics from Pink's songs "The Great Escape" and "Perfect" as examples of messages for adolescents.

Despondent husband wants to break cycle of cheating

DEAR ABBY: I have been married twice. My first marriage lasted 20 years, the second one about four years. During my first marriage, I started cheating seven months after our wedding. My wife knew about some of the affairs and stuck with me anyway. I finally felt so guilty for hurting her emotionally, I called it quits and married the last woman I cheated on her with.

My second marriage was in many ways better. I was able to remain faithful for more than three years before cheating again. I feel terrible that I have hurt another woman I loved, but I have now fallen in love with the woman I'm cheating with.

It's like I'm in a perpetual cycle and don't know how to stop. I want this relationship to be my last one. I want to remain faithful and committed, but I'm scared to death I'll end up cheating on her and let us both down.

I'm not proud of how I treated my exes, but I can't change the past. How do I change this pattern of behavior so I can be a faithful and devoted partner?

CHEATER IN MICHIGAN

DEAR CHEATER: I respect you for recognizing you have established a pattern and admitting it. The most effective way to break a "perpetual cycle" would be to understand exactly what has driven it. I don't think this is something you can or

should do on your own. That's why I recommend you schedule some sessions with a licensed mental health professional before making another trip to the altar.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

DEAR ABBY: Is there a rule of etiquette regarding Christmas presents at this point in the year? I have boxes full of gifts for some friends and their children. These friends live no more than 30 minutes away, but have canceled every plan we have made since the middle of November. They know I have the gifts, and I've asked them to stop and get them out of my home, even if they don't have time to come in and visit.

When I try to make plans to bring them their gifts, they say they have errands to run and they'll let me know when they're home. Then they wait until the next day to tell me they forgot, or they were out longer than expected.

We have no idea what's going on in each other's lives past the point of social media, which has shown me they're minutes from my house at least once or twice a week. I understand life is busy, but it feels like they're purposely avoiding me at this point.

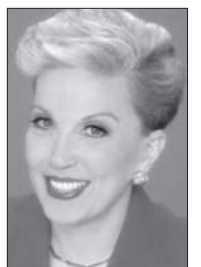
Most of the gifts are personalized and can't be returned or repurposed. But for those that aren't, at what point is it OK to give up trying to deliver them and return them to the seller?

TIRED OF WAITING

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR TIRED: Sometimes no message sends a strong one. By now it should be clear to you that those folks are not interested in receiving anything from you, and are probably not eager to continue any sort of personal relationship. If you need my permission or encouragement to return the items—if, indeed, any of them are still returnable—I'm giving it to you now.

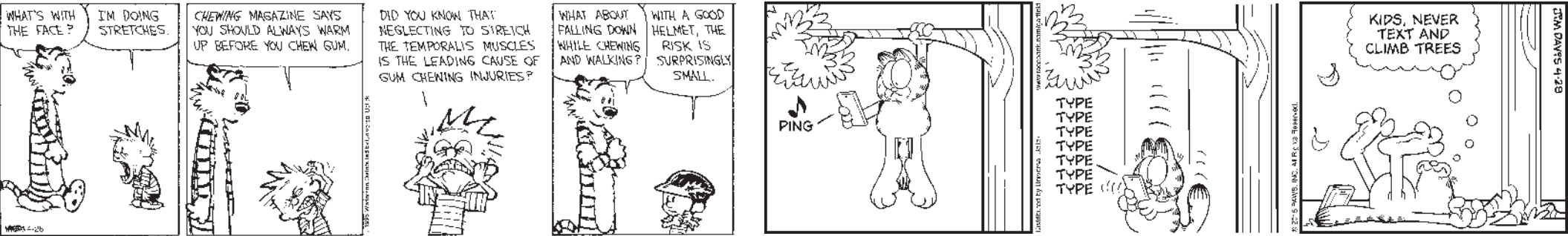
What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

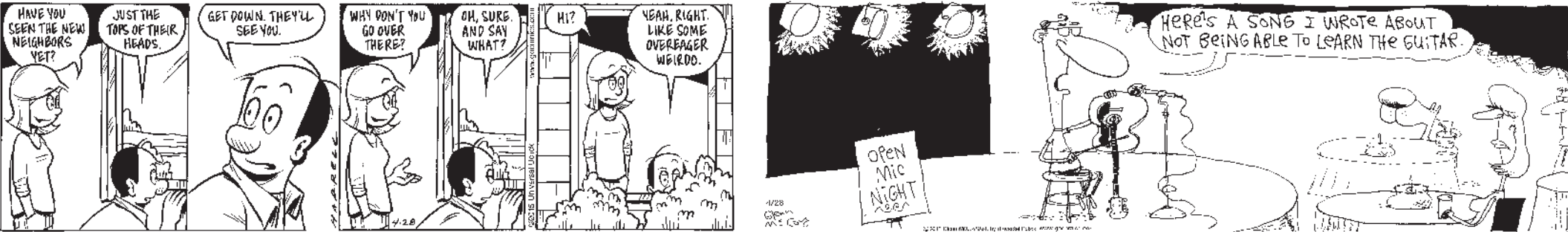
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Amor-phous movie monster

5 Zero

8 Cold War initials

12 TV host Kelly

13 Raw rock

14 Entreaty

15 Exam format

16 Michael Jackson step

18 One-time portable music player

20 Two under par

21 Help

22 Support-ing

23 NYC borough

26 Authorita-tive command

30 Okla-homa city

31 April 15 payment

32 — de deux

33 — bread

36 Become less intense

DOWN

1 Forehead

2 Old

3 Italian money

3 October birth-stone

4 Roma-nian, e.g.

5 Wanderer

6 Press

7 Zodiac cat

8 To the sky

9 Refinery waste

10 Hawk

11 Croupi-er's tool

17 Night light?

19 Blend

22 Office machine

23 Foul

24 Mineral stat

25 Feed-bag tidbit

26 Welcome sight?

27 Suit-able

28 Greek cross

29 Kreskin's claim

31 Monkey suit

34 Honor

35 Yule-tide refrain

36 Parcel of land

37 Left a good impres-sion?

39 Arbitr

40 Experts

41 Stare open-mouthed

42 Cruising

43 Perform perfectly

44 Re planes

45 Wise one

46 Cupid's alias

48 Eggs

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-28

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Alba, 34; Penelope Cruz, 41; Jay Leno, 65; Ann-Margret, 74

Happy Birthday: Put all that you have learned and experienced to work for you. Harness your thoughts and strategize about the future. Cut your costs and put more time and effort into expanding your goals and future prospects. Less talk and more action, along with innovative investments, will result in greater stability and prosperity. Precision and dedication will be your tickets to success. Your numbers are 3, 17, 23, 25, 31, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Say whatever is on your mind, but remember to be diplomatic to avoid regret. A change in position will take a bit of getting used to, but once you master what needs to be done, you'll advance quickly. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Revisit an idea that still interests you. The timing is right to start something new. An emotional issue that has concerned you can be amended if you set new ground rules. Say no to anyone trying to take advantage of you. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't believe everything you hear. Someone will try to coax you by offering an empty promise. Your colleagues will talk behind your back if you mix business with pleasure. Honesty will be of utmost importance, so don't exaggerate. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Try something new or make an unusual change and you will create a better future. Let

go of the past and make an effort to follow your heart and your dreams. If something isn't turning out well, replace it with what makes you happy. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stop thinking about what you want to do and make it happen. A new business or hobby that involves something or someone you find entertaining will bring you satisfaction. Romance will improve your personal life. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stay on top of any problems that are festering today. Difficulty seeing the truth or being fed false information can be expected. Dig deep and find out what you need to know to force issues and get what you want. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): View any changes going on around you as a new adventure. Be inspired by what you see and those you admire. Update your personal papers and secure your financial position. A partnership will open your eyes to a different way of living. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on forward motion. Don't let anyone sidetrack you. A change in the way you present your talents or services will influence the outcome of a venture you want to pursue. If you need help, call in a favor. A partnership looks promising. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Go about your business and put the changes in place that will help improve your personal life and your standard of living. An emo-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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tional matter will lead to a setback if you don't address the situation quickly and truthfully. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Follow your heart and do something that excites you. An interesting investment will grab your attention. Rework a proposal and change some of the trouble spots and you will discover a successful enterprise. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Turn your surroundings in to a place of comfort and entertainment. Thinking about what you intend to do with the rest of your life will lead to an emotional discussion. Good things will develop if you start something new. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't fight the inevitable. Hone your skills and find a way to use your talents to serve your needs. You can get ahead if you refuse to let others put demands on your time. Don't let criticism slow you down. ***

Birthday Baby: You are curious, determined and outgoing. You are aggressive and insightful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★

4/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	7	6	3	1	4	5	2
4	3	6	8	2	5	1	7	9
5	1	2	7	9	4	6	3	8
7	6	5	3	1	2	8	9	4
3	2	9	4	8	6	7	1	5
1	8	4	9	5	7	3	2	6
2	7	1	5	4	8	9	6	3
9	5	8	1	6	3	2	4	7
6	4	3	2	7	9	5	8	1

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BUDDY RICH, WORLD'S GREATEST DRUMMER Solution: 4 letters

R R B T W N E R E F F I D A C E
E S A A N A C I R E M A S I I
T P P T N G M R D R U M S T R
I E B R S D N E O E S A E E A
R A N R O L L I H B R P C G M
W K E A U C L E W T E C E R E
G N W C I S E A A S R R E A
N O Y T S C H N U D J I T N D
O E O O A S I E I T E P C E O
S V R R E S E S S R H R S K W
U I K I K V T B U Z A O T O S
O L T N O I E V O M Z M R S T
M R A O C B E A T L E G A C Y
A R R K O T R E C N O C H A L
F G S P E T E R S O N S C R E

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Actor, A Different, All-star, American, Artie Shaw, Author, Bandleader, Beat, Bebop, Bess, Brushes, Charts, Concert, Energetic, Famous, Frank Sinatra, Grip, Groove, Legacy, Marie, Marine Corps, Meadow, Move, Mr. Drums, Musician, New York, Oscar, Peterson, Recess, Ride, Robert, Solo, Songwriter, Speak No Evil, Speed, Sticks, Style, Swing, The Man, Tricks

Yesterday's Answer: Lists

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 or 42, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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EMPLOYMENT

(3) Fisherman, (1) Sales Representative. Minimum salary. Send resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) **Commercial Cleaner** – With atleast 5 years work experience in cleaning apartment/building, dust & mop, polish floor & furniture. Must be honest, trustworthy and able to work flexible hours.
Email resume to edwardcalvo@gmail.com. No phone calls please. US applicants are encouraged to apply.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **\$250/month.**
2-BR, 1-BTH. **\$350-\$550/month.** Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **\$600/month**

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **\$550/month**

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **\$700/month**
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft **\$500/month**
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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
SaipanTribune

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

Housekeeper (1)
Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning of words and rules of composition. Must have at least 3 years working experience. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Important qualities: detailed oriented. Must pay close attention to detail. Interpersonal skills. Must get along well with people they provide services for and must be polite and friendly. Physical stamina. Must be able to spend many hours on their feet scrubbing, bending, stooping, and stretching and must be able to lift or move up to 50 pounds. Must be able to work flexible hours and days.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, May 8, 2015.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

TAGA Sports is now on issuu.com/tagasports!
Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA Sports, the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Crew Member (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC)

Summary of Responsibilities
Performs a variety of duties that may include the duties of a Telephone Person, Cashier, Register Person, Cut & Pack Cook, Maketable Pizza Preparer, Receiving & Stocking and Lot Person.

TELEPHONE PERSON
Essential Functions
• Answer telephone quickly within Pizza Hut guidelines.
• Clearly communicate to customers all specials and promotions.
• Accurately record customer orders on to POS system.
• Communicate to make table personnel any special requests.
• Keep counter and work area clean and organized at all times.

CASHIER
Essential Functions
• Ensures an accurate accounting of all transactions, collections and disbursements during work shift.
• Receives cash drawer at beginning of work shift and verifies the accuracy by counting money in cash drawer.
• Obtains and reviews information regarding price changes or menu specials.
• Greet guests as they enter the dining area or carryout area.
• May take guests' food and beverage orders and give orders to kitchen staff.
• Itemizes and totals guests' food and beverage purchases or may collect food and beverage checks from guests and ring them to the register.
• Collects cash, checks, or charge payments from guests.
• Makes change for cash transactions, verifies identification for checks and prepares charge voucher for credit card purchases.
• Counts money, checks, and charge payments in cash drawer at end of shift.
• May reconcile checks, cash receipts and charge sales with total sales to verify accuracy of transactions.
• Stocks counters, display refrigerators, salad bar, and steam table neatly, accurately and in a timely fashion as per menu.
• Checks to ensure that all display foods are presented attractively as per standards.
• Displays food under appropriate hot or cold conditions as per standards.
• Keeps display equipment clean and free of debris during meal service, as assigned.
• Cleans workstation thoroughly before leaving area assignment.
• Relays relevant comments received from customers directly to supervisor.

REGISTER PERSON
Essential Functions
• Responsible for providing quick and efficient service to customers.
• Greets customers and takes their food and beverage orders.
• Accurately records customer's orders on to POS system and computes the amount of the bill.
• Serves drinks from dispensing machines or makes and serves hot drinks from water heater or coffee maker.
• Picks up food items from serving bar or storage area.
• Places items on tray or in take-out containers.
• Checks orders to ensure that guest is receiving a complete and correct order.
• Informs kitchen staff of shortages or special requests.
• Collects payment from guest and makes change.
• Helps with preparation of food in kitchen.
• Helps with getting back up food on line
• Washes dishes.
• Informs manager of stock levels.
• Restocks drink station/supplies, paper.
• Restocks supplies in counter area – napkins, crushed peppers and cheese, and restocks items to ensure a sufficient supply throughout shift.
• Wipes off front counter with cleaning solution and clean cloth. Keeps counter and floor clean at all times.
• Cleans and restocks dining room.
• Takes trash out to dumpster.
• Performs long-term maintenance on sidewalks, walls, and equipment.
• Sweeps and keeps exterior lot clean at all times throughout the shift.

CUT & PACK COOK
Essential Functions
• Checks workstations for presence of small equipment, assembly materials, paper goods and condiments.
• Responsible for product assembly, checks appearance and calls out preparation times for all orders.
• Monitors oven setting according to Pizza Hut standards.
• Checks all finished products to ensure compliance with Pizza Hut standards.
• Communicates with make-table personnel, front line personnel and MIC for quality controls and feedback.

MAKETABLE PIZZA PREPARER
Essential Functions
• Responsible and required to prepare and assemble all products according to customer's order and according to Pizza Hut portioning specifications.
• Sets up the make-table by checking the worktable, counter, dough cabinets, and line refrigeration to ensure they are properly stocked prior to the meal production period.
• Checks all workstations (make-table, pasta) for presence of appropriate small equipment, assembly materials, and stock levels.
• Monitors all food production areas for safety and sanitation practices and procedures. Checks for cleanliness and orderliness and provides direction/takes action as necessary.
• Sets up production cycles, ensure proper inventory levels are available, and calls to back up or replenish items as necessary.
• Reads order on video or printer as they appear. Calls out and coordinates specials/missing items to ensure quick service. Tracks preparation times on all orders (TITO), checks weight and appearance and passes item into oven.
• Periodically monitors need of food and materials supplies, takes action as necessary.
• Communicates clearly and effectively to food production personnel, receives information and feedback from them on their needs, and takes action based on observation and information received.
• Cleans and sanitizes workstations on an ongoing basis during meal preparation periods and at the end of the meal period.
• Monitors work of kitchen staff in the completion of their close-down duties and responsibilities.

WAIT HELP
Essential Functions
• Greets the guests as they enter the dining area.
• Clearly communicate to customers all specials and promotions.
• Take guests' food and beverage orders and give orders to kitchen staff.
• Attends to the needs of the customers.
• Clears table when guests leave.
• Wipes tables with cleaning solution and a clean cloth.
• Performs secondary duties such as phone order taking, product preparation and restaurant maintenance.
• Keeps dining area clean and organized at all times.
• Relays relevant comments received from customers directly to supervisor.

RECEIVING & STOCKING
Essential Functions
• Responsible for the receipt and storage of all food, supplies and materials received in the restaurant using proper EXPERT, FIFO and Pizza Hut procedures.
• Receives all food, supplies, and materials.
• Checks all incoming items for count, quality and specification.
• Ensures that items are received and stored at the proper temperatures.
• Maintains the completion and compliance of all delivery and inventory records as defined by proper Pizza Hut procedures.
• Keeps all storage areas and inventory in a neat and orderly fashion.
• Maintains the quality of the restaurant products by ensuring that all inventory are dated properly before storing to effect proper FIFO usage.
• Maintains the safety of the restaurant by ensuring that all storage areas are free of hazardous conditions.

LOT PERSON
Essential Functions
• Receives assignment from Manager In Charge at the start of shift.
• Maintains cleanliness and sanitation of dining room including all tables, chairs, support bars, floors, windows, and trash receptacles.
• Cleans and restocks drink station with ice and lids as needed.
• Cleans and restocks restroom facilities with soap, toilet tissue and paper towels. Empties trash containers, cleans walls, doors, basin, mirrors, floors and toilets.
• Maintains exterior cleanliness from litter and debris. Checks lighting, windows, landscape, parking lot, sidewalks, trash corral and signage.
• Communicates with manager in charge to maintain cleanliness efficiency and ensures guest satisfaction. This includes assisting guests with trays and opening doors.
• Follows priority sequence on lot checks, should take care of any eye soars first, such as spilled drinks, over flowing trash receptacles, etc.
• Return trays to designated area to be cleaned.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Able to understand and implement written and verbal instructions. Communicates clearly, courteously and efficiently with customers in English. Must possess basic math skills.

Required Experience
Food service and food production experience preferred. Cash handling experience preferred.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for minimum periods minimum of four hours. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday. Must be able to bend and stoop occasionally. Must be able to occasionally lift 25 lbs.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Delivery Driver (3)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Part Time, Non-Exempt, less than 32 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC) / Dispatcher

Summary of Responsibilities
Delivers customer's order in a timely and safe manner within accordance of Pizza Hut guidelines and compliance with State and Federal traffic laws.

Essential Functions
• Drives competently and complies with all traffic laws.
• Delivers products in a timely manner with accuracy and courteousness.
• Collects checks, cash or credit card slips to properly tender order.
• Performs secondary duties such as washing dishes, cleaning, prep and cooking duties.
• Keeps car and work area clean and organized throughout shift.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be at least 18 years of age. Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license with a minimum of 2 years driving experience. Must have an acceptable driving record. Must provide own insured vehicle for deliveries. Able to read and follow road maps. Must be able to speak, read, write and understand English. Must be able to communicate clearly, courteously and efficiently with customers.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for a minimum of four hours. Requires driving, standing and walking for most of the workday. Must be able to lift 25 lbs. occasionally.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Dough Scaler & Mixer (3)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports to: Manager In Charge (MIC)

Summary of Responsibilities
Prepares the pizza dough every morning to use throughout the day.

Essential Functions
• Responsible to dough preparedness as prescribed from manager In Charge
• Complies with all portioning, quality standards, rules, policies, and safety procedures
• Selects and transports raw items to work area and back
• Stores finished products in proper places
• Selects proper equipment and utensils to prepare as procedure require – dough mixer, whips, pitcher, proofer, bun-o-matic, retarder and dough roller.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be able to work the opening shift. Able to understand and implement written and verbal instructions. Must possess basic math skills.

Required Experience
Previous bakery experience required.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for minimum periods minimum of four hours. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday. Must be able to bend and stoop occasionally. Must be able to occasionally lift 40 lbs. Must have sensory capabilities to select quality of sauce. Must have finger dexterity to use some utensil tools.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS: This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisors or managers to perform other duties. You will be evaluated in part based upon your performance of the tasks listed in this job description. The employer has the right to revise this job description at any time. The job description is not a contract for employment, and either you or the employer may terminate employment at any time, for any reason.

All interested applicants may get application at Pizza Hut Restaurant in Gualo Rai • Closing Date: May 1, 2015

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) HEMODIALYSIS TECHNICIAN

- Certified from Junior College/Technician School in Healthcare
- Attended a Hemodialysis-training program
- Three years hemodialysis experience preferred
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Able to work flexible time schedule

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick-up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on Friday, May 15, 2015 at 4:00 P.M.
For more information, please call (670) 234-2905, ext. 128

WHATZIT Solution: Go round in circles

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Ellis, Barea keep Mavs alive with win over Rockets



DALLAS (AP)—J.J. Barea last started a playoff game when he helped boost Dallas' run to a championship four years ago. Al-Farouq Aminu had never been on the floor for the opening tip in a postseason game.

They helped give the Mavericks at least one more game in a first-round series with Houston.

Barea and Aminu recorded their first career postseason double-doubles to go with 31 points from Monta Ellis, and Dallas avoided elimination with a 121-109 victory over the Rockets on Sunday night.

"We weren't ready to go home," Ellis said after the Mavericks cut Houston's series lead to 3-1. Game 5 is Tuesday night in Houston.

Barea had 17 points and 13 assists, while Aminu finished with 16 points and 12 rebounds.

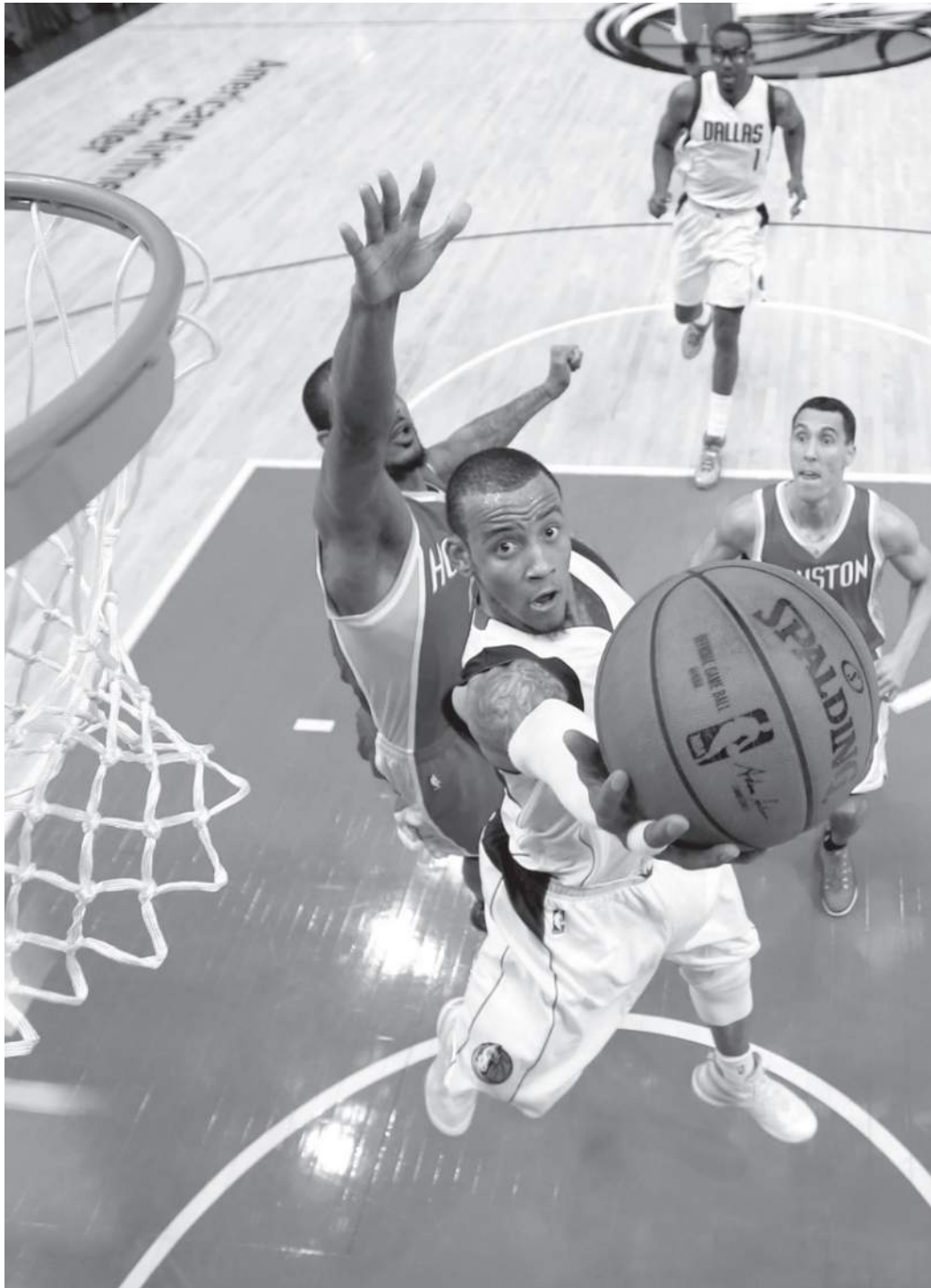
Tyson Chandler had 10 points and 14 boards as Dallas out-rebounded Houston 52-38 after offensive rebounding was a key for the Rockets in a Game 3 win that put them on the verge of their first playoff series victory since 2009.

James Harden scored 24 points, and Dwight Howard had 13 for Houston. But the big man was kept under control after scoring 10 points with two more alley-oop dunks in the first quarter. He had seven rebounds after getting a playoff career-high 26 in Game 3.

The Rockets missed 17 consecutive shots covering the second and third quarters. The most-prolific 3-point shooting team in NBA history in the regular season was 7 of 31 from long range.

"We're very upset about the way we handled ourselves tonight," Howard said. "It's not becoming of a championship team. It starts with myself and James. We've got to do a better job from the beginning of the game to the end of the game of leading our team."

Barea was one of coach Rick Carlisle's starting guards in the postseason for the first time



Dallas Mavericks' Monta Ellis goes up for a shot after getting by Houston Rockets' Trevor Ariza, rear, as Pablo Prigioni, bottom right, watches in the second half of Game 4 in an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Sunday April 26, 2015, in Dallas.

since Game 4 of the 2011 NBA Finals. He started the last three games of that series against Miami, all Dallas wins on the way to the title.

Generously listed at 6-foot, Barea, who spent the past three seasons in Minnesota, energized a Dallas offense that never was right after the failed trade for Rajon Rondo. He helped Dallas avoid just the second sweep

in 14 trips to the playoffs with Dirk Nowitzki, who had 10 of his 16 points to help the Mavericks keep a safe distance in the fourth quarter.

Barea led a 24-7 run in the first half after the Rockets had gone up 12. Another 20-2 run with him running the offense in the third quarter was capped by his 3-pointer and a spinning layup by Ellis that gave Dallas its

biggest lead at 81-57.

"We're going to fight," Barea said. "We're not going to quit. We've got to go to Houston, and we've got to bring it back to Dallas."

The Rockets were 2 of 21 from long range going into the fourth, when they made five of their first six shots. Josh Smith, who scored 23 points, had four of them. But Houston never got

closer than nine.

Howard, who paired with Smith for five alley-oop dunks in a key fourth-quarter run of Houston's Game 2 win, looked as if he was going to do it again.

One of his alley-oops was a spectacular running, one-handed slam that got a big roar from pockets of red-clad fans scattered among the Dallas fans in blue playoff T-shirts that were waiting on their seats.

But Howard had just one point in the second quarter and was 1 of 6 from the line. Two of the misses came after Devin Harris was called for a flagrant foul when he wrapped his arms around the 6-11 center and threw him to the ground as Howard tried to go up for a shot.

Howard finished 3 of 13 from the line and wasn't much of a factor after Harris' hard foul.

"It's a big play," Carlisle said. "When you're at home, you've got to keep the energy up, you've got to keep the aggression up and you've got to do it in a way that's clean. It was a hard foul. There was no intent to hurt anybody."

Cavaliers 101, Celtics 93

In Boston, LeBron James scored 27 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers overcame a shoulder injury to Kevin Love to complete a first-round sweep of the Boston Celtics with a victory.

Love left the court in the first quarter with a dislocated left shoulder, and J.R. Smith was ejected for swinging his arm at Jae Crowder, but the Cavaliers held on to win a series for the first time since 2010, before James left for Miami.

Now Cleveland gets extra time before facing the winner of the Chicago-Milwaukee series. The Bulls lead 3-1.

The Cavaliers led 57-36 at halftime even though James missed eight of 12 shots and Love left the game for good after becoming entangled with Boston's Kelly Olynyk while chasing a loose ball. Love immediately headed for the locker room.

The Cavaliers said Love

would return to Cleveland with the team and receive additional examination, imaging and evaluation at Cleveland Clinic Sports Health over the next 24 hours before his status is updated.

Clippers 114, Spurs 105

In San Antonio, Chris Paul had 34 points and seven assists, and Blake Griffin added 20 points and 19 rebounds, as Los Angeles beat San Antonio to even their first-round series at two games apiece.

J.J. Redick scored 17 points for the Clippers and Austin Rivers provided an unexpected boost off the bench with a postseason career-high 16 points.

Game 5 of the only series that is tied after four games is Tuesday in Los Angeles.

Kawhi Leonard scored 26 points, Tim Duncan had 22 points and 10 rebounds and Tony Parker added 18 points, but Paul proved too much.

Paul hit jumpers over Parker and Duncan in scoring six straight points for the Clippers beginning midway through the fourth quarter. He then drove the lane and kicked out to Redick, who drained a 3-pointer for a 106-92 lead.

Wizards 125, Raptors 94

In Washington, Washington emphatically completed the first sweep of a seven-game series in club history, getting 23 points from Bradley Beal and 21 points and 11 rebounds from Marcin Gortat to beat Toronto.

Paul Pierce, who repeatedly said he didn't want to have to go back through U.S. Customs for any more games in Canada, added 14 points, including a pair of 3-pointers in the third quarter as Washington's lead reached 32 entering the fourth.

Washington has reached the second round of the playoffs in consecutive seasons for the first time since getting to the NBA Finals in 1979, a year after winning the title.

Next up for the Wizards will be No. 1 seed Atlanta or No. 8 Brooklyn.

It's here: Fight week begins with Pacquiao caravan to Vegas



LAS VEGAS (AP)—The last time Freddie Roach was on the interstate linking Los Angeles with this boxing capital, he was written up for going 140 mph.

Roach will be driving a lot slower Monday as part of a colorful caravan of hundreds of cars heading down Interstate 15 with Manny Pacquiao for his showdown with Floyd Mayweather Jr.

"Manny will spar on Monday for the last time and after that we'll break camp and everyone will go to their cars and trucks," Roach said. "The entourage used to be about 100 cars, I'd

say there might be 1,000 cars this time."

Fight week is finally here, and even in a city known for the outlandish it is shaping up to be something special. The richest fight in history has spawned \$100,000 ringside tickets, hotel rooms going for \$1,600 a night, and a pay-per-view price just a nickel shy of a \$100 bill.

Even \$10 tickets to see the two fighters at the weigh-in are running as much as \$700 through online ticket brokers.

Everything is over the top for the megafight that was five years in the making. That includes the caravan that will bring Pacquiao to Las Vegas, featuring hundreds of cars and a custom bus

wrapped in Pacquiao's image for some of the luckier members of his entourage.

"I might have the fastest car," Roach said. "But if I get one more of those tickets I can't drive anymore. I asked the police officer, why do they make these cars so fast if you can't drive that way? I should have shut my mouth."

Pacquiao is scheduled to arrive at the Delano Las Vegas hotel at Mandalay Bay sometime early evening Monday following seven weeks of training at Roach's Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood. His arrival marks the unofficial kickoff to a fight week unlike any other in a city used to hosting the biggest fights.

So far it doesn't look like promoters underestimated the demand for the fight. The cheapest ticket on the StubHub website Sunday was \$5,245, while ring-side seats were being offered for as much as \$106,950. Even tickets to watch on closed circuit at various MGM-owned properties in Las Vegas—which originally sold for \$150—were being offered at \$620 or more online.

Everybody will pay for a fight that will likely earn Mayweather \$180 million and Pacquiao \$120 million. Even Roach had to shell out \$70,000 for 20 tickets for family and friends, though he was able to get his at retail prices.

"My mother asked for four

tickets and my mother gets whatever she wants," Roach said. "My brothers and sister all want to go. I'm happy I can afford to buy them tickets."

While Pacquiao will be arriving in town, Mayweather lives here and has been training at his own gym just west of the Las Vegas Strip. His promoter, Leonard Ellerbe, said Sunday that Mayweather will treat the week just like any other big fight he has been involved in.

"It's a typical fight week, business as usual," Ellerbe said. "Floyd is going to put on a spectacular performance, you can count on that."

Ellerbe said he isn't surprised by the demand for anything to

do with the fight, which will smash records for biggest gate and almost surely set records for pay-per-view sales.

"Everything is out of the stratosphere," he said. "It shows you the world wide appeal of this fight."

Roach can be forgiven if he speeds a bit on his way to town. A seven-time winner of the trainer of the year award by the Boxing Writers of America, he said Pacquiao guaranteed him a win last week so he would win the award for an eighth time.

"This will be my biggest win ever," Roach said. "This one really counts, it will be in the history books the rest of our lives. I think my guy is ready for it."

A-Rod hits No. 659, Yanks beat Mets to win Subway Series



**N E W
Y O R K
(A P) —**
Alex Ro-

driguez hit his 659th home run to move within one of Willie Mays for fourth place on the career list as the New York Yankees took advantage of one mistake after another by the suddenly sloppy New York Mets in a 6-4 victory Sunday.

After falling behind early, the Yankees scored four times in the second inning off Jonathon Niese and took two of three in the first Subway Series of the season.

The crosstown rivals meet again at Citi Field in September.

Rodriguez connected in the first inning at Yankee Stadium. He drove a 2-2 curve from Niese (2-1) to right-center, with the ball bouncing off the top of the fence for a solo shot.

It was the fifth homer of the season for A-Rod, who sat out last year while serving a drug suspension.

Five relievers combined to throw 4 2-3 hitless innings for the Yankees. Chasen Shreve (1-0) earned his first major league win by getting cleanup batter Michael Cuddyer to ground into an inning-ending double play with two on in the fifth.



New York Yankees designated hitter Alex Rodriguez (13) hits a first-inning solo home run in a baseball game against the New York Mets at Yankee Stadium in New York, Sunday, April 26, 2015. AP

Astros 7, Athletics 6

In Oakland, California, Evan Gattis hit a two-run double in the ninth inning as American League West-leading Houston completed its first sweep of Oakland.

Evan Gattis hit a two-run double in the ninth inning as the American League West-leading Houston Astros completed their first sweep of the Oakland Athletics with a 7-6 win Sunday.

Gattis matched a career high with four RBIs. His go-ahead double with one out came after the A's intentionally walked Jed Lowrie to load the bases.

Gattis lined a 1-2 pitch from Tyler Clippard (0-2) to the deepest part of the field.

Tony Sipp (2-0) retired four batters for the win. Former A's reliever Luke Gregerson pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

Tigers 8, Indians 6

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera homered and drove in three runs as the Tigers beat the Indians.

Cabrera has three homers this season, all against Cleveland, and nine of his 13 RBIs season are against the Indians.

Kyle Lobstein (2-1) picked up the win, allowing three runs and six hits in seven innings.

Joakim Soria pitched the ninth for his seventh save.

Carlos Carrasco (2-2) took the loss for Cleveland, giving up five runs and nine hits and two walks in 4 1-3 innings.

Rangers 5, Angels 4, 11 innings

In Anaheim, California, Leonys Martin led off the 11th inning with a homer as the Texas Rangers scored another run on Erick Aybar's error before holding on for a victory over the Angels to

end a three-game skid.

Jose Alvarez (0-1) was working his second inning of relief when he gave up Martin's 16th homer in 1,121 big league at-bats.

Aybar soon after made his second error of the game, misplaying a grounder in the hole by Elvis Andrus.

Neftali Feliz (1-1) pitched two innings for the victory.

Pirates 8, Diamondbacks 0

In Phoenix, Francisco Liriano pitched effectively into the seventh inning in a combined three-hitter and the Pirates completed their first sweep in Arizona.

Making his 200th career start, Liriano (1-1) offset six walks with seven strikeouts and allowed two hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Pedro Alvarez hit a two-run single off Jeremy Hellickson (1-3) in the first inning and Neil Walker added a two-run double off the right-hander in the fifth. Gregory Polanco had three of Pittsburgh's 14 hits and scored three runs.

Pittsburgh has won five straight and eight of 10.

Orioles 18, Red Sox 7

In Baltimore, Delmon Young drove in five runs and Chris Davis homered as the Orioles received a bounce-back pitching performance from Bud Norris in a victory over the Red Sox.

Baltimore took control with a six-run third inning and led 12-0 in the sixth. Davis, Jimmy Paredes and Steve Pearce each contributed three RBIs to the Orioles' second straight win following a five-game skid.

Baltimore finished with 20 hits, three apiece by Young, Davis, Paredes and Rey Navarro.

Norris (1-2) allowed three runs and seven hits in 6 2-3 innings. The right-hander came in with a 17.42 ERA after allowing 20 earned runs in his first three starts.

Marlins 6, Nationals 2

In Miami, Adeiny Hechavarria hit a bases-loaded triple after a botched rundown kept the inning alive as the Marlins completed their first three-game sweep of the Nationals since May 2012.

The Marlins earned their fifth consecutive victory after a 3-11 start. The defending NL East champion Nationals (7-12) lost their fifth game in a row.

Giancarlo Stanton hit an RBI triple off the top lip of the center field wall, reached on an infield single and scored twice. Miami hit three triples in a game for the first time since 2000.

Washington's Gio Gonzalez (1-2) allowed 10 hits and six runs in five innings.

Dan Haren (2-1) needed 91 pitches to get through five innings but allowed only two runs.

Nationals right-hander Max Scherzer (sore thumb) will likely be scratched from his next scheduled start Tuesday at Atlanta.

Phillies 5, Braves 4

In Philadelphia, Ryan Howard hit his second homer in two games, helping the Phillies beat Atlanta.

Howard's miserable season had already cost him his cleanup spot in the order, and he entered the game batting .189. Howard hit a two-run homer on Friday and a three-run shot in the first

inning against Trevor Cahill (0-3) on Sunday.

Jonathan Papelbon had his fourth save. He allowed Alberto Callaspo's pinch-hit solo homer in the ninth.

Ben Revere knocked in the go-ahead run with a triple and the Phillies won two of three games in the series.

Jerome Williams (2-1) allowed three runs and eight hits in 6 2-3 innings for the Phillies.

Rays 5, Blue Jays 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Chris Archer pitched two-hit ball in seven scoreless innings and Brandon Guyer drove in four runs as the Rays won their fifth straight with a win over the Blue Jays.

Archer (3-2) became the first American League pitcher to go four starts within one season without giving up an earned run since Zach Greinke did it for Kansas City in 2009.

Evan Longoria had three straight hits and a walk for the Rays after going 4 for 4 on Saturday. Longoria's batting average rose from .218 to .306 in two games.

Guyer hit the second pitch from Mark Buehrle (3-1) for a home run, his first of the season.

White Sox 3, Royals 2, resumption of suspended game White Sox 5, Royals 3

In Chicago, Conor Gillaspie hit a two-run single in Chicago's five-run sixth inning, as the White Sox rallied to beat Kansas City for their second win against the Royals.

The day began with Avisail

Garcia's two-out RBI single sending Chicago to a 3-2 victory in the resumption of a game suspended by rain on Friday night. Then an error on Kansas City third baseman Mike Moustakas helped the White Sox chase Edinson Volquez (2-2) on the way to just their second win in six games this season against the Royals.

John Danks (1-2) pitched six innings of three-run ball while improving to 8-1 in 18 career starts against Kansas City. David Robertson (2-0) got three outs for his third save in three opportunities after he tossed a scoreless inning for the win in the suspended game.

Alex Gordon hit a two-run homer for Kansas City in the regularly scheduled matchup. Gordon, a four-time Gold Glove winner in left, also made a pair of nice defensive plays, including an outstanding leaping grab on Micah Johnson's foul liner into the stands in the sixth.

Kelvin Herrera (0-1) was the loser in the opener.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 3

In Milwaukee, Adam Lind hit a two-run homer as the Brewers beat the Cardinals just their second victory in the last 12 games.

The Cardinals had won nine of 10. They headed back to St. Louis, where ace Adam Wainwright will have an MRI on Monday to see how long his injured Achilles and left ankle will sideline him—there is speculation he could miss the rest of the season.

Mike Blazek (1-0) pitched

two innings for the victory. Starter Mike Fiers gave up one earned run on nine hits and two walks in four-plus innings.

Lance Lynn (1-2) allowed six runs on 10 hits in five innings.

The Cardinals headed back to St. Louis, where ace Adam Wainwright will have an MRI on Monday to see how long his injured Achilles and left ankle will sideline him—there is speculation he could miss the rest of the season.

Cubs 5, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, rookie Addison Russell doubled with the bases loaded—one of his best moments during his first week in the majors—as the Cubs held on for a victory and a sweep of their rain-shortened series against the Reds.

The 21-year-old second baseman was in a slump when he broke the game open with his three-run double in the fourth inning off Anthony DeSclafani (2-1). Miguel Montero had a solo homer and a run-scoring single off DeSclafani, who had a streak of 16 scoreless innings snapped.

Jake Arrieta (3-1) pitched six innings after waiting out a 4-hour, 13-minute delay before the Reds called off Saturday's game because of persistent rain.

Twins 4, Mariners 2, 11 innings

In Seattle, Joe Mauer hit a two-run triple with two outs in the 11th inning, lifting the Twins over the Mariners.

Mauer got three hits and drove in three runs. In addition to his first triple of the season, he had an RBI double as the Twins won for the third time in four games.

Seth Smith hit his first home run of the year and also doubled for the Mariners.

Seattle reliever Tyler Olson (1-1) walked Chris Herrmann to lead off the 11th. After a sacrifice bunt, Olson intentionally walked Brian Dozier. Shane Robinson fouled out before Mauer's triple.

Casey Fien (1-1) pitched two innings. Glen Perkins closed out the 11th for his fifth save.

Padres 3, Dodgers 1

In San Diego, Brandon Morrow pitched seven strong innings to earn his first win with San Diego, and Alexi Amarista and Derek Norris homered as the Padres beat the NL-West leading Dodgers to snap a four-game skid.

Morrow (1-0), signed as a free agent in December, held the Dodgers to one run and five hits while striking out four and walking one.

Craig Kimbrel pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

Scott Baker (0-1) lost his Dodgers debut after they selected his contract from Triple-A Oklahoma City. He signed with the club on April 5 after being released by the New York Yankees at the end of spring training.

Rose finds a new way to win 7th PGA Tour title



AVON - DALE, La. (AP)—It sounds like

Justin Rose believes he's had a breakthrough in the Big Easy.

The Pete Dye-designed TPC Louisiana doesn't have a layout that would seem to suit Rose's strengths. The Englishman also wasn't accustomed to contending in tournaments that require gunning for birdies on nearly every hole, knowing that the leaders would be close to 20

under par by the end.

Yet, Rose pushed himself to swing aggressively and trust his initial reads on the greens. His approach produced 66 consecutive holes of bogey-free golf and some clutch birdies down the stretch to give him his first victory of 2015 at the Zurich Classic on Sunday.

"This is not in my wheelhouse," Rose said of New Orleans' PGA Tour stop, noting that his best results tend to come at tough courses requiring a cau-

tious approach, where 10 under is a good final score. "You want to become a player that can win on every type of course, and I will take a lot of confidence from the fact that I was able to play a golf course that was, you know, you had to be very aggressive and shoot low and keep shooting low."

Rose completed a 7-under 65 in the rain-delayed third round Sunday morning and closed with a 66 in the afternoon for his seventh PGA Tour

title, holding off a late charge by Cameron Tringale, who finished just one shot back.

Rose's four-round, 22-under 266 set a record on the course southwest of New Orleans that has hosted the city's PGA Tour stop 10 times since 2005.

He has now won at least once in six straight seasons, the second-longest streak on the tour behind Dustin Johnson's eight straight. He's projected to jump from ninth to sixth in the world ranking.

His victory also validated the

confidence he carried from the sudden and dramatic improvement in his game two weeks earlier at the Masters, where his second-place tie stood in stark contrast to mostly dismal results this year.

"Earlier this year, it looked impossible to win," Rose said, referring to his three missed cuts and failure to finish better than 37th in five tournaments this year before he arrived at Augusta National. "I'm very happy to have turned my game around."

Rose's final two putts from 10 and 13 1/2 feet allowed him to hold off Tringale, who birdied the 18th for a 65.

"I'm just proud of the way I hung in there," said Tringale,

who was looking to become the eighth first-time winner in the last 11 years in New Orleans. "I did a lot of things well this week and I'm going to take a lot of positives moving forward."

Boo Weekley, who led after the first round, finished third at 20 under. Jim Herman and Jason Day, ranked sixth in the world, tied for fourth at 19 under.

Rose began the final round tied with Day for the lead at 16 under. But Day, who had to finish most of his third round Sunday morning, hooked his drive on the par-5 second hole into trees lining the left boundary. His next shot smacked squarely off a tree and bounced right back to him.

Title favorites crowd A division

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Three teams are jockeying for the top position in the A Division

of the Bud Light Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring 2015 season held in various bars on the island last week.

The Route 33 Mafia is currently enjoying the top view with a 95-58 record with the Naked Fish Ridin' Darry (91-62) and the San Juvy Predators (90-63) not too far behind in the 10-team division.

The Darry's 12-5 win against the cellar-dwelling Sand Juvy A No Fear help shore up their title bid while a 9-8 decision by the Mafia over the Sand Juvy Sakude foiled them to further increase their lead.

The Predators also scored a 9-8 triumph over the Smoke

Pub Voyagers to remain within striking distance.

The Sand Juvy 101 Proffers trounced the Jokers Warriors, 13-4, while the Smoke Pub Hunters edged the San Juvy Snipers, 9-8, in the other games. The rest of last week's results are as follows:

Masters

TDI Summit 12, Destroyers 5
Scratch 'N' Sniff 9, Pythons 8
Shoot Balut 13, Darting Chelu's 4

Ladies

Kitty Kats 9, Pasawayz 6
Vicious Darties 8, Try Luck 7

Tuesday B

Atarashi Boyz 9, Titans 6
Pasaways 13, Like It Or Not 2

Chichirika C

Bull It 9, Tokers 6
Jump It 8, Blue Koi's 7

Kingfisher C

Spartans 14, Hafa Mas 1



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Jokers Kitty Kats are currently on top in the Ladies Division with the Sand Juvy Vicious Darties in the Bud Light-SEDA Winter/Spring 2015 season.

Sea Ricks 12, Dart Knights 3
Chagi Fan 9, High Flyers 6

Fanihi B

Dragon Warriors 11, Sunrisers 4
80 Proffers 12, Warriors 3
Late Sparts 9, Preba Darts 6

Mixblood 10, Team Fearless 5

Flame Tree B

Oneshot 11, Real Deal 4
No Fear 8, Snipers 7
Ridin' Darry 8, Na'Gupu 7
Kyodai 10, Serial Killaz 5

CALEB

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The dethroned champion came into the winner-take-all finale undefeated in nine games and boosted its chances for back-to-back crowns after building a 73-56 lead, with still 11:15 left in the match. However, Daniel had a monumental collapse, while Caleb launched a back-breaking 22-0 run in the next six minutes and change of the game behind Cabanas and Borromeo, who went in and out of the court in the second half due to cramps, but managed to lift their team to the come-from-behind victory.

Cabanas went out first after scoring a fastbreak layup, which incidentally sparked Caleb's rally. He came back a few minutes later and he and Borromeo combined for four straight triples in that spurt, while Edison Castro's uncontested shot in the paint off Nathan Huddleston's assist put Caleb in the lead after a long while, 74-73. Cabanas added four free throws in the ensuing plays to give Caleb cushion, with five minutes left in the match.

Two charities from Dindo Pablo ended Daniel's drought, but Caleb won the next exchange, 7-4, to enter the last two minutes of the game with an 85-79 advantage.

Daniel also mounted a comeback behind Angelo Hernaez to regain the lead, 86-85. Hernaez, who missed a bundle in the meltdown, completed a 3-point play and made a fastbreak layup that gave the lead back to Daniel, with 1:10 left on the clock. Daniel point guard Andrew Palino scored the 2 other points off a pair of free throws.

Daniel recovered with Cabanas on the bench, suffering from cramps anew. Alex Gozon replaced him and the former split his charities in the ensuing play to knot the count, 86-all. Borromeo, who returned to the floor after also cramping out earlier, broke the deadlock with his two charities that came after Noel Ong overshot an open layup off a fastbreak play and gave up a foul against the former, 51.8 seconds remaining in the match.

Hernaez tried to get the 2 points back, but was called for a dribbling violation, returning possession to Caleb, which failed to widen the gap as Borromeo muffed a runner with the 24-second shot clock about to expire and Arvin Bacani went 0-for-2 from the line after getting the offensive board and a foul on Reli Del Rio. Actually, Bacani canned his second charity, but was called for a stepping violation, nullifying his basket and

keeping Daniel's hopes alive.

A driving Palino was fouled in Daniel's next offensive set and he could have made an and-1 play had the ball not rimmed out. He settled for two charities to tie the game anew, 16.7 seconds left in the thrilling finale.

With the 24-second shot clock down and Caleb inbound from the backcourt, all Daniel had to do was play good defense to avoid the heartbreaker, but Ong opted to foul Borromeo quickly. It was not a wise decision, as Ong held down Borromeo too much, wrapping his arms around the Caleb gunner, forcing referee Robert Tamondong to call an unsportsmanlike foul.

Borromeo was given two free throws and Caleb the possession because of Ong's infraction. Borromeo went on to hit three free throws as after his split, Palino committed a preemptive foul on the former, who this time went 2-for-2 from the stripe for Caleb's 3-point lead, 10 seconds remaining in the game.

Daniel had a chance to move closer when Hernaez was also fouled on his way to the basket, but he faltered both charities and Willy Sacdalan secured the crucial defensive rebound, down to 3.6 seconds in the match. Sacdalan also missed both charities, but Huddleston got the offensive

board and went for the turnaround shot, which he muffed. Hernaez collared the rebound and pushed the ball, but time ran out as he crossed midcourt and threw up a prayer.

Hernaez sizzled for 40 points in the finals, but went cold when Caleb made the rally, while Cabanas and Borromeo top-scored for Caleb with 31 points apiece.

Meanwhile, Isaiah won the battle for third place against Gideon, 71-65.

Marlo Ibanez paced Isaiah with his 17 points, while Joel Buniag had 16 for Gideon.

First Game

Isaiah 72 — Ibanez 17, Gragas 15, Fatialofa 12, De Leon 8, Brillo 6, Vergara 4, Puno 2, Dalusung 2, Arroyo 2.

Gideon 65 — Buniag 16, Omampo 12, David 10, Santos 10, Gonzales 9, Reyes 8.

Scoring by halves: 35-32, 72-65.

Second Game

Caleb 91 — Cabanas 31, Borromeo 31, Gatlula 10, Morales 6, Castro 3, Ocanada 2, Bacani 2, Huddleston 2, Sacdalan 2, Gozon 1.

Daniel 88 — Hernaez 40, Palino 20, Nunez 10, Pablo 9, Del Rio 7, Robles 2.

Scoring by halves: 44-47, 91-88.

MAMIKO

From Page 28

Steven Johnson, who placed sixth in the men's division with a time of 3:50:12.

"A lot of people think that the Mt. Fuji marathon is all uphill. It is basically flat and it has only one big hill. I'm just going to train here, running up Mt. Tapochao and at Banzai Cliff," said Berger, who holds the fastest record time in last year's 50K race.

Berger logged in 4:04:14 in the 2014 50K race to beat her own 2013 record of 4:11:02. Her 2013 time shaved off more than eight minutes on the 4:19:21 registered by Yoko Yamazawa in 2012.

American Lorie Hutchison finished second behind Berger in the full marathon completing the course in 3:48:04, while lawyer Kimberly King-Hinds placed third with a time of 4:03:38.

Mariko Mori (4:15:42), Jennifer Cui (4:18:21), and Mamiko Takahashi (4:20:53) completed the Top 6 female runners.

Akiyoshi Kamijo led a 1-2

finish for Japan in the men's division with a blistering pace of 2:39:38 while 33-year-old Genkies crossed the finish line in 2:58:16. Korean Minghul Koh came in at third (3:21:49).

Tamotsu Kimura (3:30:24), Kei Hayashida (3:47:34), and Johnson (3:50:32) were the other runners in the men's Top 6.

Seventeen-year-old En Feng Wang led the men's age division winners (15-19, 4:15:07), while four other Japanese topped their respective group. Barefoot runner Chang Whan Jang, 62, was the fastest Over-60 runner with a time of 4:13:35.

Taiyo Nagashima (20-29, 4:12:36); Masaharu Mori (30-39, 3:54:14); Kozo Yamada (40-49, 3:53:17); and Ichiro Kubo (50-59, 4:01:23) were the other male age group winners.

Miho Hayashi (20-29, 6:15:17); Tomoko Sugimoto (30-39, 4:27:24); Kimiko McKagan of Saipan (40-49, 4:28:06); Yukiko Fukui (50-59, 6:05:12); and Hirayama Etsuko (Over-60, 4:22:49) were the female age groupers.

FOOTBALL

From Page 28

co-ed U8, U10, and U12 divisions, and grassroots program for U6. The U10 age group lured the most participants with 94, while 76 and 49 joined the U8 and U12 divisions, and U6 had 16 players.

Officials of the participating clubs were proud of the performance of their respective players in the festival and the matches in the spring season.

"We've seen significant improvements from our players. They have shown better endurance, discipline, and teamwork. Their skills have also improved," Tinian Premier Football Club president Arley Long said.

Tinian brought two teams from the festival with its U10 and U12 squads each having 11 players.

"They played well and showed what they've been doing during our training sessions," added Long, who thanked the Child Care and Development Fund for helping

them start and continue the program that also draws support for Sherman Consulting, LLC and its head Philip Long.

Tan Holdings fielded 30 players from three age groups (U6, U8, and U10) in the festival and won all their matches, according to the club's general secretary Ador Dimaano. Dimaano also made special mention of their player's much improved skills, saying they are ready to elevate their games to the next level.

"The teamwork is there and they really work hard on improving their skills every game," he added.

As for Kanoa FC, general secretary Cristy Villaflo said that although some of their players started football late and joined the team just one or two years ago, they held their ground against much experienced players during the festival and the earlier games.

"They are picking up skills that they need in order to join competitive games in the coming years and are very eager to learn," Villaflo said.

2015 Big League Trophy Presentation

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ



Natibu Sports Association Braves pose for a group photo after finishing runner-up to the IT&E Fielders, 6-5, in last week's finals in the Big League division of the Saipan Little League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



Padres manager Joe Flores, second left, joins his players Bradley Lieto, left, and Jerald Cabrera in receiving the Sportsmanship trophy from Saipan Little League president Ben Jones.



IT&E Fielders pitcher Keola Camacho was the finals MVP after tossing 6 1/3 innings in relief where he held the Braves to two unearned runs on four hits while striking out six and no walks.



Bradley Lieto belted the lone home run this season.



Braves teammates A.J. Evangelista, left, and Frankie Lieto, right, join Bradley Lieto of the Padres with the most triples.



A.J. Evangelista, left, of the Braves receives the regular season MVP award from Saipan Little League vice president Annie DLG Flores.



IT&E Fielders catcher Verlance Sechamidal was this season's batting champion with a .439 average or 18-for-41.



Braves pitcher J.J. Lifofoi shows off his medals.



The Braves' Darrion Jones, left, receives the most strikeouts award from his father and SLL president Ben Jones.



The Padres' Jerald Cabrera, left, shows off his most doubles medal.



**Ellis, Barea keep
Mavs alive with
win over Rockets**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**A-Rod hits No. 659,
Yanks beat Mets to
win Subway Series**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Caleb's Michael Cabanas drives baseline against Daniel's Angelo Hernaez, left, while Alain Nunez steps in for help defense during the second half of their title game in the 4th Genesis Cup last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mamiko fails to beat time but rules Saipan Marathon

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



A day before the 2015 Saipan Festival of Runs, Mamiko Berger was suffering from stomach flu and was feeling a bit dehydrated heading into the 42-kilometer race last Saturday.

Berger failed to beat her 2012 record but still came out on top of the women's division in the full marathon event that started and finished at the American Memorial Park near Micro Beach.

The 45-year-old clocked in at 3:28:19, which was slower compared to her 2012 best time of 3:09:49 in the annual race that had runners navigating from AMP to Banzai Cliff then to the stoplight before Chalan Kanoa and back to the finish line at Micro Beach.

"It wasn't a good race for me. Not a good day since I was too slow since I was suffering from stomach flu a day before," said Berger in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

The veteran long-distance runner added that she still wasn't feeling well prior to the start of the race.

"Halfway through the race, I thought that I would not be able to finish it. I was lucky that I did finish it but was a bit sad with my time."

Berger's efforts earned her a spot on the 2015 Mt. Fuji Marathon set in Nov. 29. She will compete with the CNMI's

See MAMIKO on Page 26

Caleb stuns Daniel in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Caleb pulled off an epic title win against Daniel, 91-88, in the 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The second-ranked Caleb overhauled a 17-point deficit in the second half and key players Michael Cabanas and Nathan Borromeo battled through cramps to deliver the killer blows in their upset over Daniel.

See CALEB on Page 26

Football festival draws over 200 players



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Tinian Premier Football Club player, left, uses his body to stop the ball during a co-ed U12 game against Shirley's Football Club in the 2015 NMIFA Youth Spring League Football Festival held last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



A total of 235 players from seven clubs participated in the 2015 NMIFA Youth Spring League Football Festival held last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

"We had a good turnout and we're happy to see the players' enthusiasm during the games despite the intermittent rain and the hot weather," Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ross Zapanta, who also took note of the well-organized event thanks to the pool of referees, coaches, players' parents, and Koblerville officials.

The festival featured games in the

See FOOTBALL on Page 26



ROSELYN MONROYO

Mamiko Berger celebrates as she crosses the finish line in last Saturday's Saipan Festival of Runs at the American Memorial Park. Berger was the top female finisher in the 42-kilometer full marathon.